



IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

## Noel Edmonds is embarrassing. And he intends to stay that way

YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS. HE ANSWERS THEM (IN THE NAME OF LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT)

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE MCILVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGSTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTEM SMITH

'Pinochet  
must get  
out, says  
hospital

BY KIM SENGUPTA, COLIN BROWN AND LIZ NASH

GUSTO PINOCHET, the former Chilean dictator, was last night told to leave the private hospital where he had been staying because he was "fit no longer requires specialist medical care".

The decision by Grovelands Priory hospital is not only a humiliating rebuff for the general, but would also now make very difficult for Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to return to Chile on compassionate grounds of ill health.

Following the ruling by the lords that General Pinochet is not immune from prosecution as a former head of state, his health was one of the few rounds for his release left to Mr Straw. The former dictator and former senator faces extradition to Spain on charges of genocide, terrorism and torture.

The general had been coaxed to Grovelands in Southgate, north London. He had been moved there from the London Clinic where he had undergone a back operation.

The hospital management

Friends and supporters of the general have been looking



Chile's Foreign Minister, Jose Miguel Insulza, at a press conference yesterday after visiting the Lower House of Parliament in Madrid. AP

has told the general and his entourage to find alternative accommodation as soon as possible, and is said to be unhappy about their lack of urgency to do so.

Paul Jarman, a spokesman for the hospital, said: "Grovelands Priory is preparing to discharge General Pinochet from its care. It was stated in open court... that General Pinochet was fit enough to appear at an initial bail hearing. In the opinion of Priory Healthcare, he no longer requires the specialist medical and nursing care provided at Grovelands Priory."

Some patients at the hospital are said to have been unhappy at having the general, accused of ordering almost four thousand deaths, staying there. There have also been daily vigils outside the hospital by former torture victims and human rights activists.

Friends and supporters of the general have been looking

for alternative accommodation for him, but with limited success. They are believed to have finally found a residence in Virginia Water, Surrey, after agreeing to insurance against bomb, rocket or firearm damage.

General Pinochet is on bail under condition that he stays within the confines of Grovelands Priory hospital, and remains under police guard. The

bail conditions will have to be altered if he is moved, and Scotland Yard will have to approve a new venue for his stay.

It has emerged that Mr Straw has sent a clear message to Tony Blair not to intervene over whether to allow the extradition of the general to proceed.

A Whitehall source said: "The message we are getting very strongly is that he doesn't want to be lobbied by anybody, including No 10. The only people he is prepared to talk to

about it are his close civil servants and officials."

This was echoed by senior Home Office sources who denied that any deal had been done with Chile following the visit of the country's Foreign Minister, Jose Miguel Insulza.

They insisted that Mr Straw was treating the matter in his quasi-judicial role, and his room for political manoeuvring was

very limited. He is prepared to let the law take its course for the time being".

Mr Insulza arrived in Spain to lobby for General Pinochet's freedom yesterday to be given a red carpet welcome. Spanish ministers are privately said to wish the extradition proceedings had never been started.

Hugh O'Shaughnessy, Review, page 4

## Yet another undeclared directorship for Robinson

GEOFFREY ROBINSON faced increasing pressure to resign last night as yet another official complaint was filed about his failure to register business interests.

Mr Robinson held a £5.00 shareholding in a company making robots for three years without registering his interest, it emerged yesterday.

The *Independent* reported yesterday that Mr Robinson

BY FRAN ABRAMS AND ANDREW MULLINS

The latest complaint, filed to the new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Elizabeth Filkin, concerns a shareholding in RJ Engineers, a Midlands-based firm. In return for financial backing, Mr Robinson received a 10 per cent stake and a directorship of the company when it launched in 1990. Commons rules say shareholdings should be listed in the Register of Members' Interests.

Last night Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, a member of the Conservatives' Treasury team, called for an urgent investigation. "If the man has any honour and if this government has any integrity, he ought to resign," he said.

Roger Evans, owner of RJ Engineers, said the MP had put up some money to help him start his business. "Geoffrey was good to me - he gave us a

start. He put in £5,500 and so did I. We repaid all that and a bit of interest," he said.

Mrs Filkin, who will take up her post in early February, will file a pile of complaints about Mr Robinson awaiting her. A senior member of staff will handle complaints in the interim.

As well as two letters from Mr Clifton-Brown about the directorships and shareholding, there have also been fresh allegations

about Mr Robinson's relationship with Robert Maxwell.

Mr Robinson wrote to *The Independent* last night saying he was not required to register the seven directorships mentioned in yesterday's paper, all of which were of subsidiaries of his engineering firm, TransTec. Sources close to the minister said a memo to MPs about a rule change in June 1993 had asked them to update their registration by January 1994 in time for a new published register. Mr Robinson resigned the directorships in December 1993. However, a senior political figure involved with the rule change told *The Independent* Mr Robinson had technically been in breach from the date on which the rules were introduced. Mr Robinson's spokesman refused to comment when the complaint was put to him on Sunday.

Two other guests who were found unconscious at the pub, which is on the slopes of the Long Mynd, were named as brother and sister Steven and Caroline Ford.

Steven, from Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, and Caroline, of London, were flown by air ambulance to a decompression unit at Murrayfield Hospital in The Wirral, Merseyside, and were said to be recovering well.

There was no one available for comment at the pub yesterday.

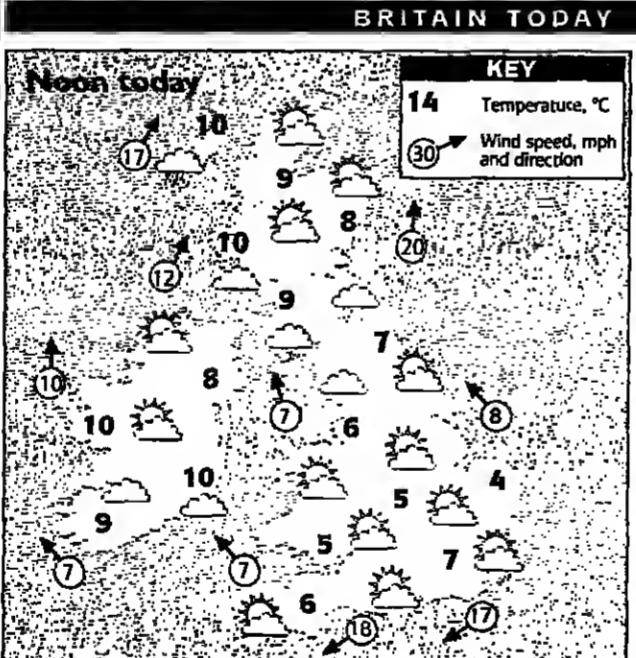
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**FORECAST**  
General situation: The odd shower in south-east England. However, once early morning mist and fog has cleared, most of England and Wales will be dry with scattered cloud. Northern Ireland and Scotland will be mild, but with a lot of cloud and one or two outbreaks of rain or drizzle, mainly in western Scotland. **East S England, London, E Anglia, E Midlands:** Turning colder but becoming increasingly sunny. A light easterly wind. Max temp 4-7C (39-45F). **SE England:** A slight risk of a light shower at first then becoming summer but colder. A moderate easterly wind. Max temp 4-5C (39-41F). **Central & W England, W Midlands:** Increasingly sunny but cold. A light easterly wind. Max temp 4-7C (39-45F). **Channel Is:** Cold and mostly cloudy. A moderate to fresh easterly wind. Max temp 5-7C (41-45F). **SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man:** Sunny spells, the best early in the day. A light easterly wind. Max temp 4-7C (39-45F). **NE England:** Mostly cloudy and cold, some drizzle in a few spots. A light south-easterly wind. Max temp 4-7C (39-45F). **N Ireland:** Mild and cloudy. A light southerly wind. Max temp 5-10C (48-50F). **NW Scotland, W Isles:** Cloudy with some drizzle rain. A moderate southerly wind. Max temp 5-7C (48-54F). **SW, SE & NE Scotland, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen:** Sunny breaks. A light southerly wind. Max temp 7-10C (49-55F). **N Isles:** Cloudy with rain at times. A fresh south-westerly wind. Max temp 10C (50F).

**OUTLOOK**  
Wednesday will be very cold and frosty in England and Wales, with eastern Scotland turning colder. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will feel the milder, cloudier weather. Thursday will be very cold and dry everywhere.

**TRAVEL**  
London: A41 Finchley Rd, Finchley Green. Major works at Finchley Rd gyratory. Until 31 December: Cambridge Rd A1 between Albury and Haddon. Construction, lane closures and contraflow. Until 18 December: A406 between junctions 14 (M25) & 3 (M25) (M25). Three narrow lanes, both ways, a 50 mph speed limit in force. Until 18 January 1999. Bristol: M5 J16-17. Major roadworks on A38. Lane closures, traffic diversion. Until 18 January 2000. Worcs: A47 Harvington, Roundabout, Kings Lynn (A10). Roadworks between the junctions 25, 24, 23, 22, 21, 20, 19, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0, -1°C. A406 between junctions 14 (M25) & 3 (M25) (M25). Three narrow lanes, both ways, a 50 mph speed limit, 1 mile south of the junction. Until 18 January 1999.

**ROADS**  
A406: Call 0336 4417774 for the latest local traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

## LIGHTING UP

**Belfast** 4.03pm to 8.24am  
**Birmingham** 3.57pm to 7.56am  
**Bristol** 4.05pm to 7.54am  
**Glasgow** 3.49pm to 8.24am  
**London** 3.52pm to 8.27am  
**Manchester** 3.54pm to 8.03am  
**Newcastle** 3.43pm to 8.08am

For 24hrs to 2pm Monday

San Rata Max  
hrs in °C °F

	5.4	0	7	45
<b>Aberdeen</b>	5.4	0	7	45
<b>Anglesey</b>	4.9	0	9	48
<b>Bath</b>	4.0	0	3	41
<b>Belfast</b>	3.6	0	3	48
<b>Birmingham</b>	3.7	0	8	46
<b>Bournemouth</b>	5.6	0.01	9	48
<b>Bristol</b>	5.7	0	10	50
<b>Cardiff</b>	5.4	0.01	10	52
<b>Cardiff</b>	5.1	0	11	52
<b>Clacton</b>	6.4	0.01	9	46
<b>Cromer</b>	2.9	0.01	8	46
<b>Dartmouth</b>	7.1	0	9	46
<b>Exmouth</b>	7.1	0	9	48
<b>Fishguard</b>	7.4	0	8	46
<b>Folkestone</b>	5.7	0.03	8	46
<b>Glasgow</b>	7.6	0.03	8	46
<b>Great Yarmouth</b>	4.6	0	9	48
<b>Isle-of-man</b>	7.2	0	8	46
<b>Isle-of-wight</b>	6.2	0.01	9	46
<b>Kent</b>	5.5	0.01	10	50
<b>Kendal</b>	5.5	0.04	9	48
<b>Leeds</b>	6.4	0	9	48
<b>Leicester</b>	3.9	0.04	6	43
<b>London</b>	4.7	0.04	8	46
<b>Lowestoft</b>	4.7	0.04	8	46
<b>Manchester</b>	5.1	0.01	9	48
<b>Margate</b>	6.7	0.01	7	45
<b>Market Drayton</b>	6.8	0	7	45
<b>Newcastle</b>	5.1	0	7	45
<b>Newquay</b>	5.3	0.01	8	46
<b>Nottingham</b>	6.1	0	6	46
<b>Rosso-on-Wye</b>	6.1	0	9	48
<b>Salcombe</b>	6.8	0	7	45
<b>Scarborough</b>	6.8	0	7	45
<b>Sheffield</b>	4.4	0.03	9	48
<b>Southend</b>	2.0	0.02	9	48
<b>Southport</b>	2.8	0.20	7	45
<b>Swanage</b>	7.4	0.01	9	48
<b>Tariff</b>	4.1	0.01	11	52
<b>Weymouth</b>	6.8	0.01	11	52
<b>Weymouth &amp; Portland</b>	7.0	0	11	52
<b>Weymouth</b>	7.0	0	11	52

Height measured in metres

## AIR QUALITY

Today's readings

N0<sub>2</sub> SO<sub>2</sub> O<sub>3</sub>

London

M5 England

Wales

C England

N England

Scotland

N Ireland

Good Good Good Good Good

Moderate Good Good Good Good

Good Good Good Good Good

# Suddenly, London fashion loses its sparkle as big designers look abroad

BY TAMIN BLANCHARD  
Fashion Editor

HYPE IS always a dangerous thing, and nowhere more so than in the fashion business. No sooner has London Fashion Week established itself as a force to be reckoned with, than it seems the catwalks of Cool Britannia are cooling more rapidly than planned.

The leading British designer Alexander McQueen, who put London on the fashion map before being invited to head Givenchy, is considering quitting London's runways. "I'm thinking carefully about where I'm going to show next autumn. If I get bad vibes from the British Fashion Council, I'm just going to go. I've got too much at stake. The dollar and the yen just aren't coming here."

In February, McQueen, who holds the BFC responsible for failing to attract serious buyers to the capital, intends to give London one last chance. If the international press and buyers do not show up next time, he will take his fashion extravaganza to New York. "Unless they change the BFC, I will leave London. I've put so much money and energy into my work and that elevates London. But they still don't get the press and buyers here. Their job is to bring commerce into London and they're really pitiful."

When McQueen started out with his collection for spring/summer 94, his shows cost him £3,000 to produce. Now, he says, the price is closer to £300,000. For that amount of time and money, he expects to be rewarded with a whole bank of buyers. But instead, buyers attending his London shows fill a mere couple of rows. If he showed in New York, his sales would double.

Anne Wintour, the editor of *American Vogue*, does not consider the London shows important enough to be graced with her presence and, until she does, London will not be in the same league as the other fashion capitals. Another complaint is that there is not enough quality control on the schedule.



ANTONIO BERARDI



PHILIP TREACY



HUSSEIN CHALAYAN

Antonio Berardi, 28, graduated from Central Saint Martin's in June 1994, the same year as Matthew Williamson. His graduation collection featured shoes by Manolo Blahnik and his own perfume. It sold to Liberty and A La Moda in Knightsbridge and he showed his first collection for spring/summer 95 with a little help from models Stella Tennant and Kylie Minogue. After his third collection, he won a manufacturing and distribution deal with Italian company Givessene. He has showrooms in Milan and Paris. His name has been on the shopping lists of fashion houses Givenchy, Celine, Iceberg and Versace. Berardi's clothes are known for innovative cutting.

Designers have been thrown into further disarray by the fact that the New York shows will take place earlier than usual, squeezing London off the schedule.

Rumours have been circulating that other key designers are thinking about leaving London's catwalks. The first expected to make the break is Antonio Berardi. Although he wants to keep London as his

creative base, he feels Milan is a more logical place for him to show. Like many British designers, Berardi has manufacturing backing in Italy where his collections are produced. Showing in London actually costs his backers. Givessene, more than if he were to show in Milan. Hussein Chalayan, meanwhile, is having to juggle the collection he designs for TSE New York with his own

label. If New York continues to show before London, he may have to move his own label elsewhere simply to have enough time between his two shows.

The knitwear designer Julien MacDonald showed his collection in New York in October after he won sponsorship from Vidal Sassoon. If the arrangement continues, he will not be able to afford to show in London as well. Besides, 80 per

cent of his business is in America. The milliner Philip Treacy has been built on young designers who take risks to launch their careers. Yesterday, at the British Fashion Council in London, the next batch of young designers to receive Marks & Spencer's New Generation

sponsorship were being chosen. There were about 70 applicants eager to become the next McQueen.

According to John Wilson, director of the BFC, there has been consistent growth in numbers of buyers attending London over the past four seasons. He claims buyers are flocking to the shows not just for McQueen, but to see the "critical mass of 40 to 50 designers" who

have established themselves over the past four years.

British designers, although internationally famous, are still young and do not have money to spend on advertising to lure the fashion press to their shows. "In terms of business, we are still tiny," says Inacio Ribeiro of Clements Ribeiro, one of our most commercially successful labels.

While attendance at Lon-

don Fashion Week is better than it ever has been, if it begins to decline, designers such as Clements Ribeiro would be forced to move. At the moment they are contemplating putting on a small-scale show in Milan.

"We don't want to show in any other place," says Ribeiro. "But if it was necessary, we would find the money from somewhere and go."

## Protest in the cathedral 'political', says Tatchell

BY CLARE GARNER

THERE could be "no more appropriate time or place" to protest against the Archbishop of Canterbury's attitude to homosexuals than during his Easter Day sermon in Canterbury Cathedral, the gay rights activist Peter Tatchell told a court yesterday.

Wearing a bright purple shirt and a red ribbon for World Aids day, the Australian-born OutRage! campaigner described how, after he took the pulpit, he was "scratched and clawed" from behind as officers tried to remove him. A church steward hit his hands in an effort to prise his fingers off the microphone, and the congregation shouted "Get out, get out". Canterbury Magistrates' Court was told.

Mr Tatchell, 46, stands accused of "indecent behaviour in a church" under an obscure ecclesiastical law last invoked more than 30 years ago. If found guilty, he could be fined £200 or face a maximum prison sentence of two months.

Mr Tatchell said he was "staggered" to be told of the existence of the law, which gives special protection to the church. Section two of the Ecclesiastical Court Jurisdiction Act 1860 – formerly part of the Brawling Act 1551 – outlaws any "riotous, violent or indecent behaviour" in any church building or burial ground.

The last person to be convicted under the provisions of this Act was Nicolas Walter, a former vice-president of the National Secular Society. He was jailed for two months in 1967 for shouting out "You hypocrites! How can you use the Word of God to justify your policies?" at a Methodist service during the Labour Party conference in Brighton. He was protesting against the Government's stance on Vietnam.

Mr Tatchell took to the witness box with bravado. He spoke loudly, sometimes raising his voice above that of the pros-



The gay rights activist Peter Tatchell and supporters yesterday outside Canterbury Magistrates' Court where he is being tried on a charge of "indecent behaviour in a church".

ecution barrister. He smiled occasionally, such as when he recalled how he had sat quietly with his Bible to while away the minutes before he staged his protest. "I read the beautiful love poetry of the Song of Solomon," he said. But most of the time he was solemn, likening himself to a suffragette, and the Archbishop of Canterbury to the leaders of the Dutch Reformed Church during Apartheid.

Earlier in the day, Mark Panton, the verger responsible for escorting the Archbishop of Canterbury to the pulpit for the Easter Day sermon, described how he was duped into making way for Mr Tatchell and his six fellow OutRage! protesters. During the sermon, Mr Panton stood at the bottom of the pulpit steps to fulfil a role that was once protective but is now, usually, ceremonial. He told the court how a man had pretend-

ed to have an asthma attack to divert him.

Mr Panton also told the court that the congregation was "quite disturbed" that the protest had happened on "what, for the Christian church, is one of the holiest days in the calendar". However, Mr Tatchell maintained that his "direct action" tactics had not been offensive. "I didn't abuse the Archbishop or insult the church," he said. "I didn't attack the Christian religion. I simply said that Dr (George) Carey supports discrimination of lesbian and gay people and detailed the various ways in which he opposes lesbian and gay human rights."

He insisted that he had not disrupted the "sacred" part of the service – such as the Eucharist or prayers – but had deliberately intervened during the "political" part of the ser-

mon. The trial continues.

Leading article Review, page 3.

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TV FROM THE PAST

Scientists say decision to ban T-bone steaks was political as tempers flare at inquiry into cover-up of disease

# Government jumped gun on beef ban'

By STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

Ministers had to ban the sale of beef before they received the scientific advice that made the ban justified, said yesterday.

Meeting last year between Jack Cunningham, who then Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and his advisers, the decision was to prepare the ground for banning beef on the hoof as a political measure to reassure the public that everything possible was done to protect the food chain.

The Government has always said that its ban on beef on the hoof was based on the latest scientific advice from its independent Spongiform Encephalopathy Inquiry Committee (Seac). It appears that it had made its mind before it had received that advice.

A spokesman for the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food confirmed yesterday that there was an "anticipatory meeting" between Mr Cunningham and Sir John Dobson, the Health Secretary, Sir Kenneth Calman, the former chief medical officer, and Sir John Patterson, chairman of Seac.

The meeting took place before Seac presented its advice to ministers suggesting that a beef-on-the-hoof ban was just one of three possible options that the Government could adopt after new research on the risks of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) infecting cattle bones.

Seac's latest advice, published yesterday, said that the risks last year from beef bones was minute and was now even smaller, but it refused to recommend the lifting of the year-old ban on T-bone steaks, ossobuco and ribbed beef.

Sir John said he would not be surprised if the Government decided to lift the ban on the sale of beef on the hoof before too long but argued that the decision was for ministers to make "based on the science".

"It's now 12 months on and we see the continuing decline of the BSE epidemic," Sir John said. "The risk was very small last year and now it's about a half or a third less than it was last year, which is negligible compared to what it was in the 1980s."

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, said yesterday: "Clearly the time is coming when we can lift the domestic ban on beef on the bone. I hope to have something to say reasonably soon."

Sir John said that there was a possibility of about "one or two" cattle infected with BSE entering the human food chain next year which would have developed symptoms of the disease within the first 12 months of life had they not been slaughtered first.

These one or two cattle - out of more than 2 million to be slaughtered next year for human consumption - carry the greatest risk of being infected with BSE in the bones but Sir John emphasised that the number is only an estimate.

"It might also be zero. If it is not zero and if we need to worry about one or two cattle then what we are doing in the past has seeded a large number of cases of it [the

human] disease," Sir John added.

At present there have been 32 cases of new variant CJD, the human form of BSE, and scientists have little idea about

the future course of the epidemic. Professor Peter Smith, a Seac member responsible for predicting the scale of the epidemic, said: "The next few years are going to be critical in

terms of assessing the risk to the human population."

Seac yesterday also recommended that human spleens used for making a medical diagnostic test should in future be

sourced from countries with no BSE. Sir John said it was important to minimise the risk of injecting material from a CJD patient into a large number of people.

Photo: The Smithfield Show, at Earls Court in London, where the trade is hoping to see a recovery in the market for British beef

David Rose

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# Dobson gives warning over council homes

NATIONAL STANDARDS and inspection processes will be introduced to protect vulnerable children and old people, says the Secretary of State for Social Services.

Jack Dobson, Minister for Social Services, said: "The Government has decided to go to the next stage in the process of reforming the care system. It is clear that the time has come for a major review of the way in which care services are provided.

Mr Dobson told the Commons that a Commission for Care Standards will be set up to review services across the board, and that it is care in people's homes, residential care or spokings.

Inspectors will have the power to go in without warning to check on standards of accommodation, food and hygiene.

They will also be able to

close down homes which fail to live up to scratch.

New national standards of performance will be laid down by ministers, and councils will be required to publish annual reports on what they have done.

"It matters to us all that good services are available,"

Mr Dobson said. "And it goes further than that. Any decent society must provide for those who need support and are unable to look after themselves.

all benefit if these services are provided for those who need them."

The standards will also include guidance on what councils should charge for services such as home helps - one recent survey found some people paid only 4 per cent of a council's budget on the service, while others in other areas paid 28 per

BY GLENDA COOPER  
Social Affairs Correspondent

## THE KEY POINTS

- Direct payments will be extended to those over 65, giving people more control over how their needs are met.
- There will be a tough new inspection regime for children's homes and a better register of people unsuitable to work with children.
- Children in care can expect "radical improvements" in education opportunities and better health services, with more help as they reach adulthood.
- Eight regional Commissions for Care Standards will regulate care services, including small children's homes and council-run homes.
- A General Social Care Council will set standards for staff and there will be a new national training strategy.

cent - and inspection arrangements would be reformed.

Children's rights officers in every region will inspect children's homes and ensure that allegations of harm or abuse are properly investigated. They will report directly to the Chief Inspector of Social Services.

any significant evidence that children are not being properly safeguarded. But children's charities were disappointed that the Government did not go further and set up a national children's commissioner.

"A national children's commissioner would come to the rescue of children wherever and whenever their rights are trampled on," said the NSPCC director, Jim Harding. "He or

she would fight on behalf of children against a range of problems... and would ensure that children are put at the heart of Government thinking."

A General Social Care Council will regulate training of the one million workers in social care. At present 80 per cent of this workforce have no recognised qualifications or training.

Mr Dobson said the Government was making nearly £3m extra available for social services in the next three years and announced £750m was being earmarked to pay for the changes. An additional £185m would be invested in mental health services provided by social services.

The new arrangements should make sure that anyone receiving social services help, whether young or old, whether living at home or in residential accommodation, is protected from neglect, abuse or exploitation," said Mr Dobson.

Chris Davies, president of the Association of Directors of Social Services, welcomed the announcements but stressed that the developments called for "a sustained commitment of attention and money" to succeed.

And the National Schizophrenia Fellowship (NSF) warned that new services were needed. "Homes have been inspected in the past and fallen well short of local standards but stayed open because authorities have not been able to find alternative accommodation," said Cliff Prior, the NSF's chief executive.

Sally Greenhous, director-general of Age Concern England said the charity was "disappointed" that the government was not ensuring all those who provide services in older people's own homes are registered.

"Older people should be able to know what they can expect, when they will receive it, and that people who are coming into their homes are qualified and reliable."



Patrons in the Alphabet Bar, in Soho, watching the preparation of absinthe with sugar and water Nicola Kurtz

## After 70 years, the toast of Bohemia returns to Britain

BY DARIUS SANAI

THE ALPHABET BAR in Soho, London, was yesterday witness to the first official tasting of absinthe in Britain since the 1920s. Once the inspirational liquor of the artistic and literary masses of the 19th century, the glowing green herbal-aniseed liquid is poised for a revival as the drink of the *fin de siècle*.

Toulouse Lautrec drank absinthe from a hollow walking stick. Manet and Degas both painted absinthe drinkers in advanced states of intoxication. Other drinkers included Picasso, Zola, Rimbaud and Baudelaire.

Absinthe last laced the brains of Europe's Bohemian masses just after the First World War until it was banned by the authorities across Europe for causing insanity. At the

turn of the century, 50 per cent of the inhabitants of French asylums were there because of the effects of absinthe.

The authorities had a point. At 70 per cent alcohol (140 degrees proof), absinthe would serve as an excellent oven-cleaner with the additional advantage of containing thujone, a narcotic similar to cannabis. Taken with sugar, a splash of water and ice, absinthe tastes slightly minty, has a powerful kick and is liable to make you mistake your fellow drinkers for your best friends.

Originally made from wormwood - a herbal remedy derived from bark - and pure alcohol and herbs, after the ban was soon sunk into ob-



Lautrec: Drank absinthe from hollow walking stick

scurity, being served only in the artistic quarters of Prague and Barcelona.

Green Bohemia, a company formed by four young Londoners, has started importing the

liquid from the Czech Republic, where it is distilled, and supplying it in limited quantities at £40 a bottle to London's most fashionable bars.

The Groucho Club, the Met Bar, Detroit and Alphabet will be serving the drink in cocktails over the Christmas season. If the reaction of the head monde in the Alphabet was anything to go by, it will go down very well indeed.

"I'm very impressed," said Tony Robinson, 66, who last tried absinthe in a bar in Paris in the 1960s. "It's full of character like an artist's palette."

Louise Kawecki was a found of knowledge about absinthe and its effects on Van Gogh. He had a fight with Gauguin and cut off his ear," she said, and took another sip.

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British soldiers escape life term

THREE FORMER British soldiers jailed for killing a Danish tour guide in Cyprus had their appeal against life sentences upheld yesterday.

The men, who were all members of the First Battalion Royal Green Jackets at the time of the offence, will now serve a maximum 25 years.

Justin Fowler, 39, from Falmouth, Cornwall; Alan Ford, 30, from Birmingham; and Geoff Pernell, 27, from Oldbury, West Midlands, were jailed for life without remission in March 1996 for the abduction and manslaughter of Louise Jensen four years ago.

But although they had the life sentence reduced, the Cyprus Supreme Court still imposed a stiffer sentence for manslaughter than the average 15 years. "Their merciless behaviour ranked the crime which they committed with the highest degree of seriousness of manslaughter and the sentence must reflect this," said the judge, George Pikkis.

Legal sources said the three were most likely to serve 15 years, taking into account good behaviour and routine presidential pardons.

The sentence counts from the time the soldiers were arrested in September 1994.

Judge Pikkis said the three could not be held indefinitely as their young age and clean criminal record at the time of the offence were mitigating factors.

Their drunken state was also taken into account by the Supreme Court, which said it was a mistake for the criminal court not to consider the influence of alcohol when passing a life sentence.

Louise's parents were present for the court ruling and expressed their disappointment afterwards.

"I thought they should be kept in prison for life. I am very disappointed," said Louise's mother, Annette.

Miss Jensen, 25, was sexually assaulted and brutally beaten to death with a spade after being abducted near a petrol station in Ayia Napa on 13 September 1994. Her naked body was found two days later in a shallow grave.

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## A star is born, and begins to shine

BY CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

THIS IS a part of our galaxy where stars which have just been born are beginning to shine, as the Sun once did on the orbiting rocks that coalesced into the Earth.

Though the region where the stars are forming, called RCW88, lies only 5,000 light years from us - and that is almost in the same street, cosmically speaking - this light cannot be seen with the naked eye because the stars are heavily obscured by clouds of gas and dust.

Instead, the picture by the European Southern Observatory in Punta Arenas, Chile, was captured by photographs taken at the infra-red part of the spectrum.

At these wavelengths, the light is not absorbed so much by the dust between the Earth and the new stars.



New stars seen clearly in a photo taken at the infra-red part of the spectrum European Space Observatory

## Cabinet will back unions on rights

THE GOVERNMENT has rejected employers' proposals to water down a key element of its plans for workers' rights. *The Independent* has learnt.

Much to the frustration of the Downing Street Policy Unit, ministers have acceded to the wishes of unions and will refuse to undermine the controversial proposals for automatic union recognition where a majority of employees are in membership.

Originally the Confederation of British Industry and the Prime Minister's policy advisors argued that workers should count towards recognition only if they had been members for at least 12 months.

In private negotiations, the "delaying period" was cut to six months, then three months and has now been dropped.

After his concession to unions, however, Peter Mandelson, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is furious that they are now opposing his plan to issue detailed guidelines to the Central Arbitration Committee, to enable it to assess unions' claims for automatic bargaining rights. Mr Mandelson has told unions that the committee must have clear ground rules for assessing whether someone is a bona fide member of a union.

Unions fear that the cabinet minister is attempting another "wheeze" to make automatic recognition difficult. "If it is a genuine attempt to solve arguments over recognition by the simplest and clearest means, we support it.

"If it envelope the whole thing in red tape which will take more than three months to disentangle, then we are opposed to it," one senior union official said.

A Whitehall source, however, said: "The TUC is trying to

BY BARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

have its cake and eat it. It won't accept anything that might fatter its God-given right to automatic recognition. All the Government wants is for applications to be subject to reasonable scrutiny by the CAC."

The row has prevented the Government finalising its Fairness at Work Bill, which is now unlikely to be published until the new year.

The decision to turn down some form of delaying mechanism, however, is a clear victory for union leaders. They argued that the constant turnover of labour, and the possibility that management might "lean" on employees to quit unions, meant that a time lapse would severely undermine the law's effectiveness.

Ken Jackson, the right-wing leader of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, and the nearest thing to a Prime Ministerial ally in the union movement, threatened retaliatory action if the CBI's demands were met. Mr Jackson warned that his union would be far more selective about its financial backing for Labour candidates in a whole range of elections.

Employers, however, have succeeded in amending another critical element of the Fairness At Work White Paper published earlier this year. While the document envisaged removing the upper limit on compensation for unfair dismissal, ministers have accepted the representations of employers and will increase the cap from the present £12,000 to £40,000 or £50,000. Employers suggested that the removal of the cap would lead to an explosion of litigation.

## Air traffic centre hits more delays

AN INDEPENDENT report has criticised the managers of the planned £475m air traffic control centre at Swanwick, Dorset, and warned that the project, already six years late, could fall even further behind schedule.

The report, commissioned by the Government, found management methods used by National Air Traffic Services (Nats), a subsidiary of the state-owned Civil Aviation Authority, were "a long way from best procurement practice". It also found Nats' initial target opening date of 1996 centre was "totally unrealistic".

The CAA admitted mistakes had been made but said the report showed Swanwick was "on track" and the air traffic control was a safe oper-

BY PHILIP THORNTON  
Transport Correspondent

ation. Nats has encountered a series of problems with the computer software and is now likely to open in the winter of 2001-2002.

In its report, the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (Der) recommended measures to strengthen the management and warned that if they were not implemented, there was "a strong possibility that further slippage, into at least 2002, will occur".

Der warned that air traffic delays "can be expected to increase" shortly before and after the centre becomes operational but added that there was no reason why safety standards should be compromised.

## BBC banks on Money and the millennium

BBC1 MADE a claim for the moral high ground yesterday with a £125m winter schedule designed to prove that populism and preaching can mix.

In a spirited reproof to ITV bosses for moving *News at Ten*, the BBC controller, Peter Salmon, announced his determination to retain everything from soaps to science on the corporation's main channel.

The ratings wars will be fought by what he termed the BBC's "home-grown" stars of Nick Berry, Michelle Collins and Michael French - who became household names with *EastEnders* - in a portfolio of contemporary dramas.

But he cited a new self-help campaign, *Fighting Fit, Fighting Fit*, aimed at getting the UK back into shape, as evidence of what the BBC should be all about. "This is the BBC using a unique range of resources and networks to inspire Britain to a healthier future," he said.

Among highlights announced yesterday were a

shoot of the Saturday *Casualty*, to be called *City*, and *Bruce Two Zebras*, an account based on McNab's book on the SAS, starring Sean Bean.

Martin Kemp, the former Spandau Ballet pop star, the cast of *EastEnders* in a classic costume drama, Richard E Grant portraying Scarlet Pimpernel.

The children's programme, *Short Cha*, moves to BBC1 from E and Caroline Aherne is to star in her own new sitcom.

At the launch of the winter season of programmes yesterday, Berry, star of ITV's *Hebe*, said he was going "to where I began", rejoining BBC for two years to develop a range of programmes. He recently been filming *Hart of the Harbour*, a drama based on a harbourmaster.

"You don't have to sell wading machines with the BBC," he said, conceding that he had also made enough money to do what he wanted.

The "mix" includes an off-

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# Speaker keeps straining MPs on tight leash over Pinochet

SEVERAL OF my right honourable members have told me that I was ungracious to put this question on, " said Tony McWalter, the Labour/Co-operative MP for Hemel Hempstead, rounding off an inquiry about Freemasons in the House. "Did the Home Secretary understand," he said, that such secretive groups were "capable of precipitating real fear?"

Mr McWalter had his back to the wall as he made his point; if masked men were to attempt to seize him, he'd bury him up to his neck at low tide, he knew, at least, that they didn't come from behind. Maybe he now hopes that Mr Straw will as-

sign a Special Branch team to protect him from the Masonic fabwa that must already have been issued, but other MPs didn't look greatly impressed by his selfless act of bravery. They knew that there is something far more unnerving than disgruntled Freemasons and far more effective at stilling loose tongues in case of reprisals.

Last week Madam Speaker made known her displeasure at repeated attempts by members to raise the matter of General Pinochet's arrest and possible extradition. So yesterday, despite the tantalising presence of the Home Secretary, and despite several

promising questions on the order paper, there was not a peep about him during oral questions.

Even Eric Forth, the Conservative MP for Bromley and Chislehurst, and David Winnick, the Labour MP for Walsall North, managed to ask questions without mentioning his name. It was an act of self-restraint which called to mind the heroic obedience of a dog required to balance a meaty treat on its nose, until its owner gives the word of permission for it to toss it in the air and gobble it down. They knew, as everyone else did, that the Speaker has the power to vocally neuter a wayward canine.

## THE SKETCH



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

But, later, in a far more impressive display of nerve than that demonstrated by Mr McWalter, Ed-

ward Leigh, the Conservative MP for Gainsborough, raised a point of order about the Speaker's ruling. He quoted Hansard, he quoted Erskine May, and the more he did so the more Madame Speaker tugged irritably at his choke-chain. "This is getting rather tedious" she said crossly.

Mr Leigh's whining became a little more strangled as his collar tightened but it did not cease altogether. Since the columns of every newspaper in the land were filled with discussion of the General's future, and since MPs and ministers were able to comment freely outside the Chamber, could the Speaker

confirm that "we alone are not allowed to discuss this issue?"

Yes, the Speaker could confirm it.

MPs, used to the idea that they have more privileges than the man in the street, looked rather crestfallen, as only harshly disciplined dogs can. To show that she meant business Miss Boothroyd later rapped Sir Norman Fowler, the Conservative MP for Sutton Coldfield, over the nose with a rolled-up copy of Hansard when he began to drift towards that irresistible lampost.

In the House of Lords, Melvyn Bragg was making his maleden speech, and conjured up a vision more alarming than marauding Freemasons or a disgruntled Speaker. Every year, apparently, 30,000 media students graduate from universities and colleges. This is an appalling statistic and for a moment it seemed as if Lord Bragg might propose some way to stem the senseless waste of young lives.

But, on the contrary, he wanted to find them jobs - creating programmes for a new cable channel, funded by existing broadcasters as a hothouse for young British media talent. Who will actually watch all this stuff he didn't say, but perhaps that's for another day.



Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, driving a JCB yesterday at a new development for Farnborough hospital, Kent. Tim Jones

## £4m grant for homeless shelters

A SCHEME worth £4m to cut the number of homeless people sleeping rough this winter was unveiled by the Government yesterday.

The Housing minister, Hilary Armstrong, announced that the "winter shelter programme" would help voluntary groups to provide more than 500 beds nationwide.

The cash package, which will centre on London, Bristol, Cambridge and Brighton, will offer emergency hostel spaces

**WINTER HARSHSHIP**  
BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

ities and other voluntary groups in an attempt to meet the target.

The number of people sleeping on the streets in London still averages about 390 a night and charities warn that many are at risk if they remain unsheltered at sub-zero temperatures.

A £200,000 Department of Health programme will also offer specialist help for those sleeping rough who have mental health problems.

Admiralty Arch, across The

Mall in central London, which housed homeless people last winter after a high-profile launch by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, will not be used in the programme, but other government buildings will.

Mr Armstrong said the scheme would offer vital emergency help to those who slept rough at a time of year when they were most vulnerable.

"People should not need to sleep on the streets in this country," she said. "Working

with voluntary organisations, we can offer not only shelter but the opportunity of a fresh start, with help to find permanent accommodation."

"Our commitment is absolute. The number of people sleeping rough must be cut by two-thirds by 2002."

The new £24m programme is part of Labour's alternative to the rough sleepers' initiative, launched by the last Tory government, which spent £250m on hostel beds over seven years.

Mr Straw went on to stress that the two-stage process of reform was outlined in the Labour Party manifesto and under the Salisbury Convention peers should not oppose any proposals which were endorsed by the electorate.

He warned: "Yet we are now told that this doctrine, and our manifesto, are both to be ignored. It is undemocratic, unconstitutional, and not a position which will impress the British people."

But Sir Norman Fowler, the shadow home secretary, accused the Government of wanting to create a "giant ermene-clad quango" with "apointees and placemen".

"The sensible thing would be for the Government to set out their proposals and then legislate. But that would put them in deep difficulty since they have no idea what comes next... their legislation on House of Lords reform is a constitutional disaster that should be rejected."

Sir Norman, who has led Tory attacks in the Commons

against the "closed list" system proposed by ministers for next year's Euro-elections, went on to renew his party's opposition to the legislation.

The European Parliamentary Elections Bill will be reintroduced and rushed through the Commons this week after being defeated five times by peers.

Sir Norman said that in the Lords too, the Government was planning a form of closed list and would be "scaling highways and motorways" for suitable candidates to appoint as life peers in the Lords.

"Now we know what the former Welsh Secretary Ron Davies was really doing that night on Clapham Common... he was on a recruitment drive," he joked.

Kenneth Clarke, the former chancellor of the exchequer, condemned the Government for devoting so much time to the abolition of hereditaries' voting rights thousands of jobs were going process.

At Scotland, Sir Andrew Dewar's Day with a future constitutionalist self-assembly topped by the opening of the Museum of Scotland. Dewar was delighted to be with the tide.

Speaking in St Andrews, Mr Dewar said the revolution settlement - setting parliament in Edinburgh 300 years ago - was not rigid.

"The franchise is still open by the Scottish Act, which allows for adjustment to changing circumstances, and we want to adjust the settlement, the machinery, place," he said.

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, more direct. "A new Scotland is being born," he said in a message to SNP candidates next May's elections. "The creation of our national identity - all that be decided is the speed of progress."

Mr Salmond underlined what he believed that independence would be achieved in stages, starting by a written appeal - a very prevalent among his supporters at the party conference that night.

"Scotland is in the process of independence," the SNP leader said. "But to keep moving in that process we must be the new Parliament works for all who live here," SNP fundamentalists who once were no truck with the home place," he said.

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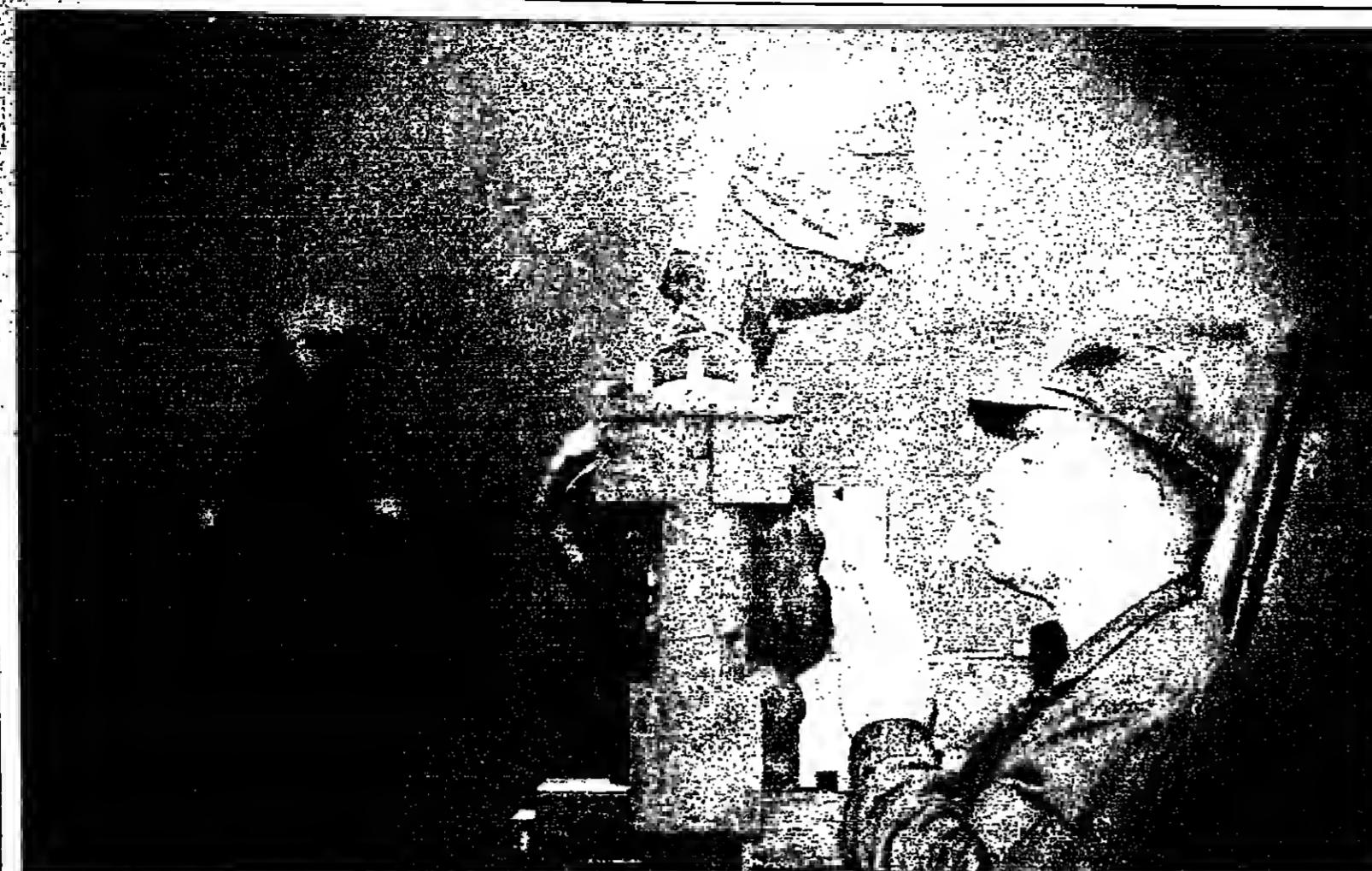
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An electrician wiring up a bronze figure by Sir Eduardo Paolozzi before the opening of the Museum of Scotland yesterday. Colin McPherson

## Scotland 'evolving towards a nation'

THE IDEA that Scots will wake up one day and find their country has become independent without there ever being a liberating "big bang" gathered force yesterday with the admission from Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, that home rule is an ongoing process.

As Scotland marked St Andrew's Day with a flurry of nationalistic self-affirmation - topped by the opening of the Museum of Scotland - Mr Dewar was obliged to move with the tide.

Speaking in St Andrews, Fife, Mr Dewar said the devolution settlement, setting up a parliament in Edinburgh after 300 years, was not rigid.

"The framework put in place by the Scotland Act explicitly allows for adjustment, to reflect changing circumstances. If through experience and by consent, we want to adjust the settlement, the machinery is in place," he said.

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, was more direct. "A new Scotland is being born," he said in a message to SNP candidates for next May's elections. "The destination of our national journey is independence - all that is to be decided is the speed of our progress."

Mr Salmond underlined his belief that independence would be achieved in stages rather than by sudden upheaval - a view so prevalent among his lieutenants at the party conference that it attracted the jibe: "We're all evolutionary nationalists now."

"Scotland is in the process of independence," the SNP leader said. "But to keep moving within that process we must make the new Parliament work well for all who live here." SNP fundamentalists who once wanted no truck with the home rule

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN  
Scotland Correspondent

half-way house are now silent. George Reid, the SNP's constitutional affairs spokesman, welcomed what he called Labour's "U-turn" and Mr Dewar's acceptance that constitutional change was "a dynamic process and not a single event". There was already a consensus for the Parliament to have powers not covered in the Scotland Act, he said. "These include broadcasting, Europe and taxation."

Labour's campaign strategy has been thrown into a quandary by the humiliation in last week's North West Scotland European by-election when the party came third behind the SNP and the Tories. The SNP hailed the result as proof that "Nat bashing" by Labour was counter-productive, a view shared by many Labour activists in Scotland.

Mr Dewar said it would be "absurd" for a government committed to modernisation to pretend it had the last word on every detail of the constitutional settlement. He also used the St Andrew's Day speech to refocus on his personal favourite themes of equality of opportunity and social justice.

"I want a Scotland which will fight social exclusion," he said. The new Scottish executive should promote prosperity to use the wealth to fight poverty. It should set high standards for schools and share in the modernisation of the welfare state.

"I want that to be our debate - not a wrangle over whether we do or do not tear ourselves out of the Union, but working together to make a stronger Scotland within a stronger United Kingdom."

Hamish McRae,  
Review, page 5

### MILLENNIUM BUG WATCH

IS THE millennium bug something to laugh about? Though Peter de Jager, a software consultant who lectures on getting computer systems ready for the date change, tends not to present it as comedy, he's decided that "without a sense of humour, none of us is going to make it over this hurdle with our sanity intact".

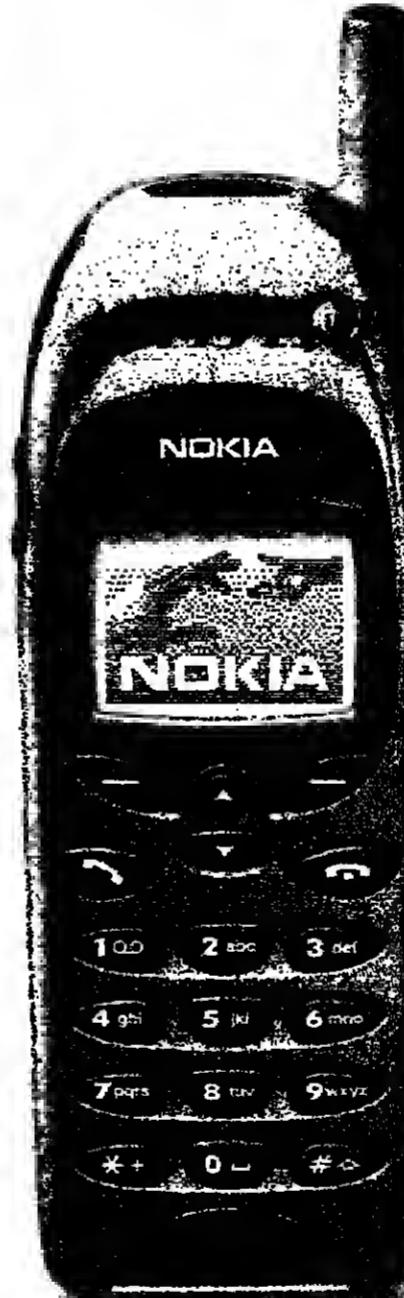
So he is sponsoring a Year 2000 Humour Contest, run from the [www.year2000.com](http://www.year2000.com) website. The first prize is \$2,500 (£1,480) to the winner chosen by 7 January.

Examples of entries so far are not encouraging: "You know you've been at Y2K too long when... You watch disaster movies to raise your spirits." Or: "How many Year 2000 programmers does it take to change a light bulb? None! It isn't broken yet." Surely knock-knock jokes can't be far behind.

CHARLES ARTHUR



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Education: Traditional schools overshadowed as GCSE results justify longer days, target-setting and homework clubs

# Technology colleges top league table

IS YEAR'S league tables are dominated for both achievement and improvement by technology colleges, which are backed by this government and the last as a way of setting standards.

Their success vindicates the government's support for a longer school day, target-setting and lunchtime homework clubs, which have been pioneered in the 15 city technology colleges (CTCs) set up by the Conservative government. The four most improved schools at GCSE on a government list issued yesterday by the city technology colleges' list is based on the increase in the percentage of pupils gaining five or more good grades between 1995 and 1998. The top school by the tables, which also include the GCSE points core, is also a CTC. Two technology colleges are in the top ten for the highest proportion of pupils gaining five good grades.

Sir Cyril Taylor, chairman of the Technology Colleges Trust, said: "These outstanding results show how effective the CTC style of education is in raising standards. Many of the techniques pioneered by the pilot group of CTCs are now being used by many other

BY JUDITH JUDD  
AND BEN RUSSELL

schools, including the 330 specialist schools."

Overall, 66 per cent of pupils at the colleges achieved five A\*-C grades compared with a national average of 46 per cent.

However, results from another CTC, Harris in Croydon, south London, show how difficult it is to sustain improvement. Harris was the most improved school last year, but this year the proportion of pupils achieving five or more good grades at GCSE fell back.

The top independent school at A-level is King Edward's School in Birmingham, with a point score of 37.7 – the equivalent of nearly four grade As. The top state school is King Edward VI Grammar School in Chelmsford, Essex, with 33.5.

Some of the comprehensives in the top 20 select pupils either by interview or by deciding a proportion of their intake by a test.

Today's tables are the most sophisticated yet produced and offer more information than before. The new score aims to reflect the achievements of all pupils by giving points for every grade, not just the top three. It is based closely on the system used for years for university entrance at A-level. But most

newspapers continue to rank schools by the proportion of pupils achieving five or more good GCSE grades.

Teachers believe that both measures are unfair. John Duxford, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "The tables give the impression that they are comparing like with like, when it is well known that schools start from very different situations."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "The tables remain an unreliable and unfair indicator of schools' achievements. As long as the five A\*-C grades remain as the major factor in determining success, the achievements of those pupils who obtain D grades and below will be written off."

Ministers are refining the tables to produce a new value-added measure, which will compare pupils' level of achievement when they enter a school with their exam results when they leave.

This year the proportion of pupils gaining five good GCSE grades has risen slightly and 7,000 fewer pupils are leaving school without any qualifications. The pass rate at A-level also went up.

NO ENGLISH state school has improved faster than a secondary modern serving one of the country's most deprived communities.

Thirty-eight per cent of pupils at Jeff Joseph Sale Moor Technology College in Trafford, Greater Manchester, qualify for free school meals – twice the national average.

Yet since 1990, the school has more than doubled the percentage of its pupils gaining five or more good GCSEs, and recorded a 23-point increase in the past four years. Thirty-five per cent of pupils now get five or more GCSEs at grade A\* to C.

Jeff Joseph opened in 1998, but has expanded into modern buildings on its site on the edge of Manchester. Some £1.5m has been invested in computer systems alone since the school gained its technology college status.

Schools in Trafford are highly selective – with about 38 per cent of children going to grammar schools – leaving the secondary moderns coping with many of the area's educational problems.

At Jeff Joseph a third of the eleven-year-olds starting at the school have a reading age of nine or below.

David Walmsley, who has been head teacher at the school for the past three years, said: "A reading age of nine is the age at which you will cope with the curriculum; otherwise, it's very difficult."

"We have a programme which focuses on reading and literacy which works across the school. We help the very poor readers and we have reading clubs with senior citizens

who come in and help us hear the children read."

Mr Walmsley spends much of his time raising the expectations and confidence of his pupils.

The school uses sophisticated measures of each child's progress based on frequent tests to help them set targets for doing better. There are award ceremonies and merits for good work. Children who have made progress are mentioned in dispatches in the head's newsletter to parents.

Out-of-school activities also play their part. There are sports clubs and music lessons for 150 children. Some have won prizes for their poetry.

The school has also opened a sixth form, now 50 strong, with

South Trafford College, to help to raise pupils' expectations.

There are lunchtime clubs to help children with their schoolwork, and after-school lessons, compulsory and voluntary, to allow pupils to catch up.

"The reasons behind the college's improvement are the hard work of the staff, support for students after school and at lunchtime, rewards, target setting and monitoring of the progress of students," said Mr Walmsley.

"It's a school where we have to work hard for the support of some parents; where we are able to achieve success with the support of parents is vital."

"We try to encourage teachers and students to set targets, and have high expectations."

## Britain's most improved school

BY BEN RUSSELL  
Education Correspondent

recorded a faster increase. Jeff Joseph's achievement was matched only by Bacon's College, a city technology college in Southwark.

Jeff Joseph became a technology college in 1994. The school has doubled in size since 1990 and now has 1,000 pupils. It has been oversubscribed for three years.

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## Important news for Norwich and Peterborough customers.

### Important News for Borrowers

The rate of interest for new and existing mortgage customers (in appropriate cases the basic rate) will decrease by 0.5% with effect from 1st December 1998. The Society's standard variable rate will become 7.59%.

The new rates will reflect the Society's commitment to making and keeping the best rates to customers.

Fixed rate mortgages will not be affected by the new interest rates. The interest rate will be taken into account when calculating new monthly payments at the next review in early 1999 or, in appropriate cases, the anniversary of the mortgage.

### New Rates for Savers

With effect from 1st December 1998

TYPE OF ACCOUNT	PREVIOUS ANNUAL INTEREST RATES		NEW ANNUAL INTEREST RATES	
	GROSS	NET	GROSS	NET
<b>MONTLY INCOME ACCOUNT</b>				
7 days notice	7.30	5.73	6.50	5.20
1 month notice (includes 0.5% bonus)	5100.00 and over	6.70	5.84	6.50
	£500.00 to £99.99	5.92	5.08	5.90
	£25.00 to £49.99	4.55	3.64	3.83
	£10.00 to £24.99	3.50	2.80	2.24
	£5.00 to £9.99	3.20	2.64	2.08
	£2.50 to £4.99	2.85	2.28	1.86
	£1.00 to £2.49	2.55	2.04	1.72
	£1.00 to £0.99	2.55	2.04	2.05
<b>HIGH RISE</b>				
Easy access	5.80	4.64	5.00	4.00
£100,000 and over	5.20	4.24	4.50	3.54
£25,000 to £49,999	4.55	3.64	4.05	3.04
£10,000 to £24,999	3.50	2.80	3.70	2.76
£5,000 to £9,999	3.20	2.64	3.40	2.88
£2,500 to £4,999	2.85	2.28	3.05	2.56
£1,000 to £2,499	2.55	2.04	2.70	2.22
Up to £499	3.15	2.62	2.40	1.92
<b>INVESTMENT SHARE*</b>				
Easy access	5.80	4.64	5.00	4.00
The new interest rates equivalent to those offered on the corresponding rates of HIGH RISE for balances over £100 will be revised in accordance with the HIGH RISE rates shown above				
<b>CANARY ACCOUNT</b>				
18 month notice accounts opened on or after 23rd February 1998 are subject to a maximum investment of £20,000.				
Easy access	6.70	5.58	6.40	4.75
£100,000 to £249,999	6.15	5.02	5.40	4.32
£25,000 to £49,999	5.70	4.56	4.95	3.96
£10,000 to £24,999	5.45	4.38	4.70	3.78
£5,000 to £9,999	5.20	4.16	4.45	3.55
£2,500 to £4,999	4.70	3.62	4.15	3.16
£1,000 to £2,499	4.15	3.32	3.40	2.72
Up to £499	3.15	2.62	2.40	1.92
<b>HEADSTART</b>				
Easy access	7.25	5.80	6.40	5.12
£25,000 and over	7.00	5.60	6.30	5.04
£10,000 to £24,999	6.50	5.22	6.10	4.88
£5,000 to £9,999	6.00	5.44	6.10	4.88
£2,500 to £4,999	6.70	5.36	6.00	4.80
<b>TESSA SELECT</b>				
6.00	7.50	–	–	–
<b>TESSA ELITE*</b>				
7.40	7.00	–	–	–
<b>TESSA ELITE II</b>				
8.00	7.50	–	–	–
<b>ELITE INTEREST ACCOUNT</b>				
6.00	4.80	5.25	4.20	–
<b>POSTMASTER II</b>				
18 month notice post	7.25	5.80	6.45	5.16
£100,000 to £999,999	7.10	5.68	6.25	5.08
£20,000 to £99,999	7.00	5.60	6.28	5.00
£10,000 to £29,999	6.65	5.32	5.90	4.72
£5,000 to £9,999	6.35	5.09	5.66	4.52
£2,500 to £4,999	6.50	5.21	5.80	4.62
£1,000 to £2,499	6.05	4.86	5.27	4.23
Up to £499	5.27	4.21	4.56	3.64
<b>POSTMASTER 10<sup>1</sup> (2nd issue)</b>				
18 day notice	7.35	5.88	6.60	5.24
Monthly income	7.11	5.68	6.38	5.04
£20,000 to £99,999	7.25	5.80	6.45	5.16
Monthly income	7.01	5.60	6.28	5.00
£10,000 to £99,999	6.70	5.39	6.35	5.08
Monthly income	6.45	5.24	6.17	4.91
£2,500 to £9,999	6.85	5.48	6.10	4.98
Monthly income	6.54	5.31	5.93	4.74
£5,000 to £9,999	6.50	5.20	5.75	4.60
Monthly income	6.31	5.04	5.60	4.48
£2,500 to £4,999	6.10	4.89	5.33	4.28
Monthly income	5.93	4.74	5.22	4.17
£2,500 to £4,999	6.10	4.88	5.35	4.28
<b>POSTAL 10<sup>1</sup> (2nd issue)</b>				
18 day notice	7.35	5.88	6.60	5.24
Monthly income	7.			

# Hundreds of sex offenders 'slip net'

ONLY a handful of the estimated 350 sex offenders who have failed to register with the police have been prosecuted, despite the scheme operating for more than 14 months.

Setting up the register and monitoring the sex offenders is costing the police in England and Wales about £500,000 a month. The total cost so far is more than £6.5m.

Figures from the police, however, show that most sex of-

fers – 6,262 or 95 per cent of those registered in the first year – have informed the authorities about their movements.

The Sex Offenders Act came into force in September last year in response to alarm at the lack of information on and monitoring of paedophiles once they were released.

Under the Act, an estimated

6,615 sex offenders who were either being released from jail under licence, or who received a community sentence such as probation, must within 14 days inform the police of their address, or whether they have moved, or changed their name.

Failure to comply with the new law is punishable by a maximum of six months in jail. But despite the publicity surrounding the new powers only a few offenders who failed to be registered have been punished so far. Several have been jailed for the offence.

Tony Butler, the Chief Constable of Gloucestershire and vice-chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers' crime committee with responsibility for the management and monitoring of sex offenders, said that in the first year the Act was implemented, 353 offenders had not registered.

Some have never registered, some have moved address and not informed the police, and some may have gone abroad and do not need to register. The Home Office is drawing up plans to block this loophole for "foreign sex holidays".

Mr Butler argued that this figure compared favourably with the United States where compliance rates range from 30 per cent in some states to 65 per cent at best.

The annual cost of imple-

menting the Act is expected to exceed £7m. Mr Butler added that a significant extra expense has been the cost of policing high-profile paedophiles. For example, the release of the notorious sex killer Sidney Cook

cost Avon and Somerset police £150,000 in managing public disorder.

There are an estimated 260,000 convicted sex offenders in the UK, 110,000 of whom have offended against children, but

as the legislation is not retrospective most do not have to register.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, argued: "The authorities have done well to get nearly all the names to register, but it still only represents 5 per cent of known offenders."

Meanwhile, a further measure to prevent people convicted of sex crimes from

reoffending comes into play today. The Sex Offender Order will allow courts to ban convicted offenders from going near specified places, such as schools, from specified activities, such as joining a Scout group.

Breach of the order, which will last five years, can lead to a maximum five-year jail term.

Police officers can apply an order against any sex offender whose activities are a cause for concern.



Devastation after the IRA's 1996 blast in Manchester

## Manchester's famous theatre returns after longest interval

AFTER WHAT must be one of the longest intervals in theatre history, Manchester's Royal Exchange reopened last night, more than two years after it was devastated by an IRA bomb.

After a £31m refit, the theatre opened its doors to a performance of Stanley Houghton's turn-of-the-century potboiler *Hindle Wakes* – the play whose run was halted by the bomb.

As a sell-out audience started to pour into the theatre, Alan Burrough, a security guard, said: "Over the past two-and-a-half years it is the ordinary public we have missed.

"Today we have had people coming in saying, 'Hello again, Alan.' That's what we've been missing. The atmosphere here is great," said Mr Burrough, who cleared people from the theatre on June 15, 1996, after police received a bomb warning.

He helped direct up to 20 people to safety from the theatre and box-office a few minutes before the bomb ex-

ploded. "Not only could we hear the blast, we could actually see it," added Mr Burrough, who remembers taking shelter from the explosion in a shop doorway.

The bomb destroyed all three of the 19th-century building's glass domes. At one point, engineers doubted whether it could be saved.

But thanks to the largest award outside London from the National Lottery's heritage fund, the building now boasts a new blue glass dome, rehearsal rooms and a separate studio with seating for 120 people.

There is also a new roof that allows scenery to be hoisted more easily. When the company performs *King Lear* with Tom Courtenay later in the season, it is planned that the new roof will be opened to the gods.

"In one sense, the bomb has allowed us to refurbish in a way that would not have been pos-



A 'magical atmosphere' has returned to Manchester's Royal Exchange theatre, which reopened yesterday after a £31m refit. Andrew For

sible otherwise," said John Goodfellow, the theatre's senior spokesman.

"The atmosphere here today has been magical. I think it is certainly the most important day for the company since it was founded in 1976."

"But it is also important for Manchester. The theatre was very close to where the bomb went off and it is the first of the major reconstruction projects to be completed in the city at Upper Campfield."

Many members of the original cast, including the actress Sue Johnson, returned yesterday to take their parts in the play, which was halted after only eight performances when the bomb exploded, causing damage estimated at £200 million in central Manchester.

During the refurbishment work, the company has been staging performances in a tented building across the city at Upper Campfield.

### THE RIGHTS OF EVERY MAN

*The Independent* is publishing daily each of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, illustrated by Ralph Steadman, to mark its 50th anniversary on 10 December.



#### Article 20

- (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
- (2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

#### Article 21

- (1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
- (2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
- (3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

A pamphlet edition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is published by Waterstone's, price £1. Proceeds to the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

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# Duty free may be reprieved

LEADERS of France and Italy floated the idea yesterday of a five-year stay of execution on plans to abolish duty free shopping next June, the start of the two-day meeting in Potsdam, Prussia's subsequently Russia's garrison town, both conceded the Franco-German political axis had come to a halt recently. But promised a "fresh wind" in relationship and sought to iron out a common front in coming battles over Euro integration. The meeting is the first formal Franco-German summit since the end of the Kohl era.

The first significant breakthrough for the campaign to end duty free, the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, asked his Finance Minister, Jean-Louis Lacouture, to use the incoming German EU presidency to lobby both the European Commission and the 14 EU finance ministers to review their decision.

In a letter dated 25 November and obtained by *The Independent*, Mr Schröder warns that scrapping duty free will

BY KATHERINE BUTLER  
in Brussels  
AND IMRE KARACS  
in Potsdam

lead to "substantial job losses not just in Great Britain and in Germany but throughout the European Union. This abolition" he wrote, "is at odds with our avowed goal of reducing unemployment in the EU."

Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, is expected to back the German call for a rethink. The French Finance Minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, will use a meeting with EU colleagues in Brussels today to unveil a new report showing that 12,000 French transport jobs are at risk. The French are demanding that the European Commission produce a thorough study of the socio-economic consequences of abolition. A Franco-German alliance on the issue could be formalised at today's summit of the French and German leaders in Potsdam.

Mario Monti, the European Commissioner for the internal market who has turned abolition of duty free into a personal crusade, yesterday dismissed the suggestion that it could be salvaged. A spokeswoman pointed out that it would take a unanimous decision of the finance ministers to overturn the 1991 decision to axe it.

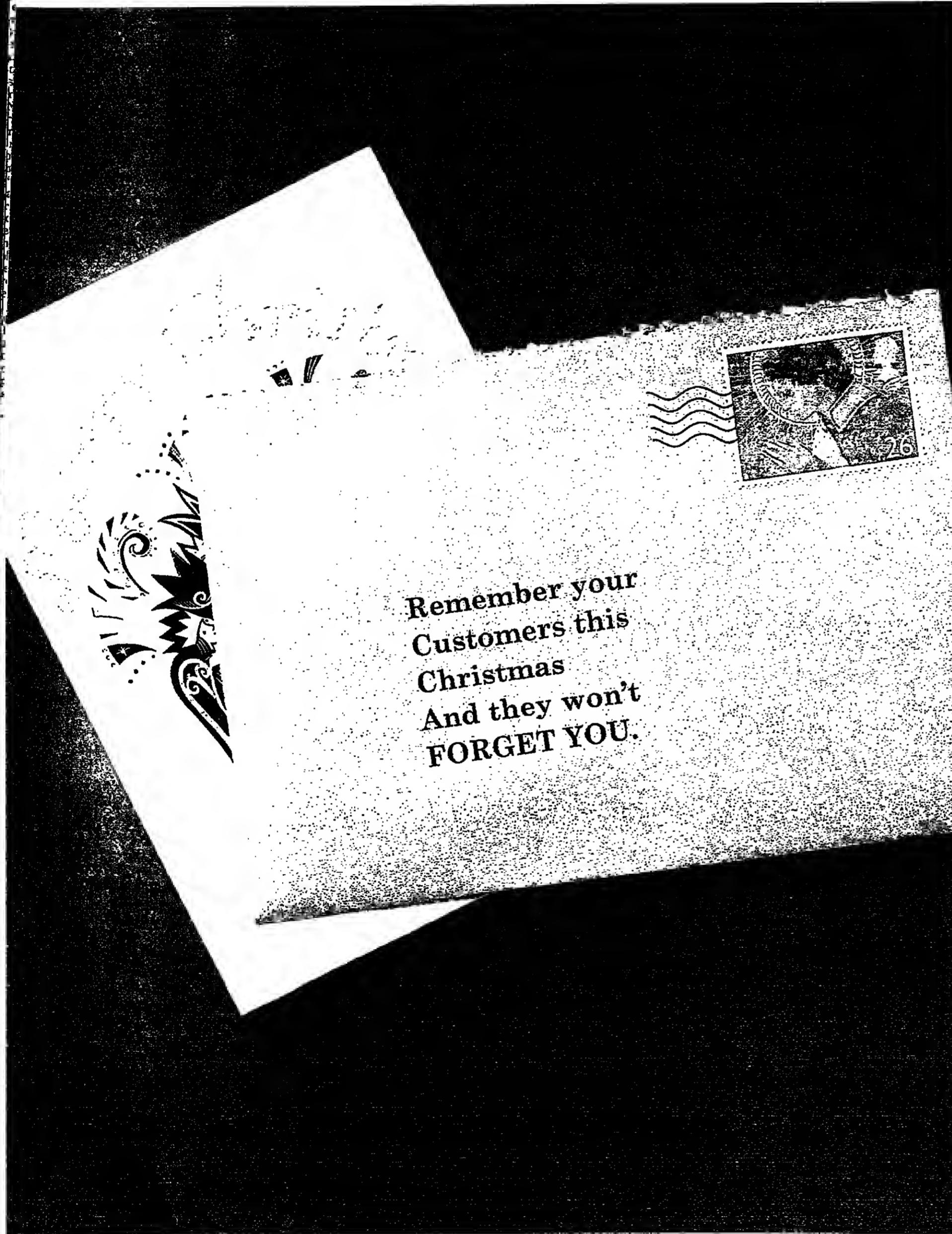
But the strength of support from the German Chancellor has taken British diplomats by surprise. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, displayed some ambivalence to the question of an impact study when it was discussed by EU finance ministers in May, but British sources conceded yesterday that the issue was one of great popular concern.

The Irish Transport Minister, Mary O'Rourke, also said yesterday that after a series of informal contacts she believes there is mounting pressure for a postponement. "France and Germany are in agreement with having a full look at it and if possible in having an extension of time. I think it will go down to that eventually."

"There is a distinct shift of policy. The winds of change are blowing in favour of the retention of duty free."



Austrians rampaging as devils and 'krampusse' (ghosts) near Salzburg in a traditional annual reminder of the 'eternal evil everywhere' AP



## Danny the Red upsets Jospin team

BY JOHN LICHFIELD  
in Paris

INTO the student protests, Mr Cohn-Bendit was taken to the German border and banned from France. He settled in Frankfurt and became a teacher, an ecologist, a local government official and a Green MEP.

As energetic and plausible as ever, Mr Cohn-Bendit says that he wishes to take the European debate away from the tired ground of Brussels bureaucracy and the dangers of the single currency (which he supports).

He wants to focus on Europe as a force for economic, social and personal freedom: "une idée joyeuse de l'Europe" - a "joyful" or "orgasmic" idea.

The former left-wing rebel believes in free markets; more flexibility at work; open Euro-



Daniel Cohn-Bendit, 53: Leading France's Greens

pean borders; reduced taxes and the privatisation of nationalised industries. But he also believes in a generous degree of legalisation of illegal immigrants; the abandonment of nuclear power; the legalisation of soft drugs and a solid minimum welfare net for all.

Opinion polls suggest that Cohn-Benditism, vintage 1998, appeals to young French people as much as the 1968 variety - precisely because it breaks away from the traditional language and ideological categories of both left and right. One survey, admittedly six months before polling day, gave him 9 per cent of intending voters, three times the Greens' score at the last European elections.

## IN BRIEF

### Iran mourners in street protest

THOUSANDS of Iranians mourning the stabbing to death of dissident Darioush Forouhar and his wife took to the streets to call for the release of political prisoners. About 10,000 gathered at the Fakhr Mosque in Tehran.

### Russian mafia 'godfather' on trial

SWISS POLICE provided massive security yesterday as an alleged godfather of the Russian mafia went on trial in Geneva. Sergei Mikhailov is charged with belonging to an illegal organisation and breaking Swiss property laws.

### Police dissolve body in test

BRUSSELS POLICE, investigating allegations a clergyman dissolved his murder victims in cleaning fluid, themselves dissolved a dead body to see if it could be done. The press yesterday accused them of not respecting the dead.

# US firms 'were war profiteers'

AMERICAN companies that may have profited from dealings with Nazi Germany are coming under pressure from Jewish campaigners.

Three years after an international outcry over the disappearance of Jewish accounts and holdings in Swiss Banks, a similar spotlight is being turned on the giant United States carmakers, General Motors and Ford.

The role of US companies in the Nazi German war effort was, if anything, more heinous than that of Swiss banks, according to the author of a soon-to-be-published book who was quoted in yesterday's *Washington Post*.

"Switzerland was just a repository of looted funds," Bradford Snell told the newspaper. "GM was an integral part of the German war effort. The Nazis could have invaded Poland and Russia without the Swiss. They could not have done so without GM."

The report, which said all efforts to persuade GM and Ford to grant access to their wartime archives had failed, appeared as delegates from 44 nations and dozens of non-government organisations converged on Washington for a

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

three-day conference on Holocaust-era assets.

The conference, a follow-up to last year's London conference on Nazi gold, is to address three further areas: looted art, Holocaust victims' insurance policies that were never honoured, and confiscated buildings and other fixed property.

Discussion in the two areas of property is complicated by the post-war division of Europe, when art works looted by Nazis, and buildings - including synagogues - that had belonged to Jewish organisations were nationalised by communist regimes.

Conference organisers were confident, however, that good progress could be made in settling disputes, especially as the post-communist governments in much of east and central Europe were now more stable. The new government in Germany was also seen as helpful.

In advance of the conference, however, a flurry of reports illustrated the continued discord, both between US and European groups, and between different Jewish organisations. One issue relates to the possi-

ble imposition of sanctions on insurance firms who refuse to join an overall settlement of claims. So far, six European insurance companies have agreed to be bound by the decisions of the international commission set up last month to consider claims.

Members of the commission include representatives of several US states, who reportedly want to ban any non-agreeing European companies from doing business in their states. The legality of such a stance has yet to be tested.

The *New York Times* reported meanwhile, that disputes had flared between Jewish groups, lawyers, concentration-camp survivors and others about the division of the \$1.25bn (about £750m) paid out by Swiss banks to settle claims.

Britain is so far the only country that has disbursed most of the funds received.

In another contentious area, looted art, many works are said to have found their way to the US and France. The *Boston Globe* reported yesterday that a 1904 Monet waterlily painting displayed at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts had "almost certainly" been stolen by Nazis from a French Jewish collector.



The Quebec Liberal leader, Jean Charest, greeting supporters in Montreal, Canada. Polls in the final stages of the campaign for yesterday's provincial election were forecasting a comfortable re-election for Lucien Bouchard's separatist Parti Quebecois

Reuters

## Tom Hanks regrets donation to Clinton's fighting fund

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington



Hanks: Changed opinions

TOM HANKS, who was one of the film world's glitterati who donated money to Bill Clinton's legal defence fund, said yesterday that he regretted his \$10,000 (6,000) donation now that the President had admitted having a relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

Interviewed in the latest issue of *The New Yorker* magazine, Hanks - whose latest film, *You've Got Mail* is about to go on general release - said: "We gave 10,000 bucks very early on... in all honesty, in the light of events

since, it would be awfully hard to say now, 'Oh, here, let me help you out with this problem'."

Supporters of Mr Clinton

have solicited donations to a fund designed to help defray what could be more than \$1m in legal expenses. An earlier fund, targeted at the President's legal difficulties with the Whitewater land deal, was wound up last year after contributions dwindled. The new fund, started this year when the Lewinsky scandal first surfaced, has raised several hundred thousand dollars.

Hanks and his wife, Rita, have stayed overnight at the White House three times in the last five years, according to *The New Yorker* - a privilege extended to personal friends of

the Clintons and major donors to his re-election campaign.

■ President Bill Clinton is unlikely to testify before the congressional panel considering impeachment charges against him for his affair with Monica Lewinsky. The White House said yesterday: "I don't think it's very likely that you'll see the President appear before [the House judiciary committee]," the spokesman said.

The panel's inquiry stems from allegations that Mr Clinton committed perjury, obstructed justice and abused his power in seeking to conceal his affair with Ms Lewinsky.

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# Triple murderer trapped by TV show

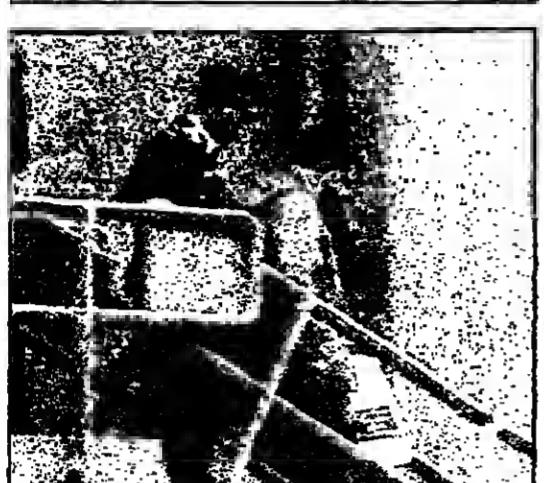
FRANCES KENNEDY  
Home  
JASON BENNETTO

ITALIAN man who has been in Britain for nine years confessed yesterday to murdering his parents and brother. At the producers of an Italian television show specialising in missing persons, who had convinced him to return to Britain after filming his confession in London, are now crying foul. They say the Italian police have had their exclusive.

Ferdinando Carretta, 36, is missing shortly after his family left on a holiday in August 1989. They never returned and he disappeared, becoming one of the main suspects.

The television producers initially said they were used against their will to lure Mr Carretta home and complained that the police had broken a deal with them. It emerged last night that they had wanted to break the news first in the most dramatic way, by airing his confession on their top-rated, one-time show. He arrived in Rome on Sunday to take part in the popular programme *Chi ha visto?* The subject was to be the mysterious disappearance of his family, who vanished after setting off on their camper-van.

But instead of being whisked to the RAI television studios, Mr Carretta was met at Rome airport by police, who escorted him to his native northern city of Parma. During six hours of questioning, he allegedly confessed to the murders.



Ferdinando Carretta (right) confessed to killing his parents (top left) and burying them in a dump near Parma (centre) after his arrest in Rome (bottom left) EPA

Until about a month ago, when he was discovered during a chance stop-and-search operation in London, he was on Interpol's missing persons file and the Italian police had no idea whether he was alive.

Mr Carretta had been resident in Britain since 1989, where he had claimed unemployment benefit and had been employed in various menial jobs, including as a motorcycle

courier. Officers described him as a loner.

Police were baffled to discover him living in squalor on his own in a one-bedroom flat in Ilford, Essex, after they found millions of pounds in his family's bank account.

Two weeks ago the Italian police were informed by Interpol of his existence and visited London to interview him.

He told them his family had

travelled to South America. The Italians were preparing to obtain an extradition warrant to bring him back to Italy. However, last week an investigating magistrate in Italy said there was not enough evidence to press for his extradition.

His parents, Giuseppe and Marta, and their son Nicola were last seen in August 1989 before they headed off on holiday in their van to France,

Spain and North Africa. Ferdinando, their eldest son, did not go on the family holiday and disappeared a couple of days later, after having cashed two cheques. To do that he forged the signature of his father and brother.

Extensive police searches failed to find any trace of the family. Their camper turned up three months later, abandoned in a street in Milan.

The fact that Ferdinando had disappeared around the same time, had bought a pistol several months earlier and had had a difficult relationship with his father prompted speculation that he may have murdered his family. There was speculation also that his father had absconded with a vast quantity of company slush funds, and that Ferdinando then murdered him for the money.

As soon as he was discovered in London, the producers of *Chi ha visto?*, who had followed the case closely for years, visited Britain. They spent several days with him, persuading him to return to Rome. They insisted they had received guarantees from the Italian police that he would not be arrested or taken to his home town.

They accused the authorities

yesterday of making "a shameful exhibition" for allowing television cameramen to film Mr Carretta's arrival at Fiumicino airport in Rome. An Interpol spokesman dismissed the criticism.

Mr Carretta's lawyer, Filippo Dinacci, said his client had been desperate to confess: "He wanted to get it off his chest. He had been living like a hermit in London. He had, in a sense, jailed himself."

During his confession on Sunday night, Mr Carretta allegedly told the Italian police he had disposed of the corpses in a dump on the outskirts of Parma.

The motive to the confession remains a mystery. In his confession, Mr Carretta allegedly said he had killed his father simply because he had been reprimanded by him, and that he had then got rid of his mother and brother because they had witnessed the murder.

Mr Carretta also apparently spoke of his family in affectionate terms. "He appears to have a double personality: one moment he is very lucid and smart - the next he is just not there," said his lawyer, Mr Dinacci.

The lawyer has asked for a psychiatric assessment to determine whether his client is fit to stand trial.

There remain questions as to whether Mr Carretta will ever come to court because of his apparently unbalanced state of mind and because the bodies of his parents and brother may never be recovered.

## 'Serbia's Adolf' denies genocide at war crime trial

HE BOASTED of killing 20 or 30 Muslims before his morning coffee and jokingly called himself "Serbia's Adolf". But yesterday the wheels of international justice caught up with Goran Jelisic as the 30-year-old Bosnian Serb went on trial in The Hague for genocide.

Terree Bowers, prosecuting for the International War

BY MARCUS TANNER

Crimes Tribunal, said Jelisic's Nazi nickname illustrated the "perverse pride" he took in the genocidal symbolism that it represented.

He told the tribunal judges that Jelisic had admitted in interviews to killing many more victims than the dozen or so

Muslims and Croats he admitted to. "We will never be able to fix the exact number," Mr Bowers said, "but his victims certainly number well over a hundred." Bosnia descended into an ethnic and religious civil war in 1992, pitting the former Yugoslav republic's Muslims and Catholic Croats against Orthodox Serbs.

According to Mr Bowers, Jelisic was released from prison in 1992 by the Bosnian Serb nationalists and sent to the northern town of Breko on a mission to eliminate the town's Muslim-Croat majority.

With most of northern and eastern Bosnia, Breko succumbed quickly to the Bosnian Serbs' well-planned offensive in

the spring of 1992. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims and Croats were left trapped behind the lines of the victorious Serbs.

The UN prosecutor said Jelisic told investigators he was given a list of prominent Muslims and Croats on arrival in Breko and told to find and kill them. It would not have been

difficult as non-Serb civilians were immediately herded into camps as soon as the Serbs took over a town. The detention centres were based in sports centres and factories.

A witness at the trial recalled watching Jelisic shoot a prisoner through the head while he begged for mercy: "It was my impression they [Jelisic and his

colleagues] enjoyed it more when they begged for mercy," he said.

"He was not a reluctant tool of the genocide who was being compelled by Serb authorities to act against his will," the prosecutor said.

Jelisic's lawyer argues that his client is mentally unfit to stand trial. He has pleaded not

guilty to the charge of genocide, which carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

If he is found guilty, it will be the first genocide conviction by the court, which was set up in the Dutch capital in 1993. An earlier genocide case against another Bosnian Serb, Milan Kovacevic, collapsed when the accused died in jail.

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THE INDEPENDENT  
Tuesday 1 December 1998

British  
dep

How  
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save ou

SECRET

# Britain plotted to depose Sukarno

BY PAUL LASHMAR  
AND JAMES OLIVER

THE FOREIGN Office secretly helped the Indonesian military to overthrow the country's former nationalist President Sukarno in the early 1960s, new evidence shows. Their actions brought to power the now notorious pro-Western President Suharto, who ruled from 1966 until earlier this year.

The Foreign Office has always denied Britain was involved in the fall of Sukarno. But new revelations show British intelligence agencies and propaganda specialists carried out covert operations to overthrow his regime.

With Sukarno neutralised the Indonesian military was free to murder hundreds of thousands of suspected communists. Amnesty International has said Suharto sanctioned



Sukarno: GCHQ passed secrets to his enemies

about 500,000 murders. In 1975 Suharto's regime also invaded East Timor and killed a third of the population.

As President Sukarno's future hung in the balance in late 1965, owing to growing military discontent, Britain sent a senior Foreign Office official and pro-

paganda specialist to boost anti-Sukarno operations.

Norman Reddaway was given £100,000 by the head of the Foreign Office, Joe, later Lord Garner, to manipulate the media. Mr Reddaway now says he was told "to do anything I could do to get rid of Sukarno".

The former Foreign Office diplomat says the removal of Sukarno was considered a huge success. Indonesia was to become one of Britain's biggest customers for arms.

Sukarno had become president in 1949 after Indonesia won independence from the Netherlands. Western concern grew over the strength of the Indonesian Communist Party and Sukarno's policy of nationalising Western assets. The Foreign Office was enraged by Indonesian efforts to destabilise the Malaysian Federation.

The evidence of Britain's involvement is published this week in Paul Lashmar's book, *Britain's Secret Propaganda War 1948-1997*.

Review, page 9

## How counter culture can save our soul

### STREET LIFE

SAMOTECHNY LANE, MOSCOW

"WHAT'S THIS jungle here?" demands the customer. "That's just Marifat, warming herself," says the shop assistant mildly.

"It's like hacking your way through the Amazon to get to the fish fingers," says the customer.

We are in the Olla mini-mart at the bottom of Samotechny Lane. The Azeri owner has placed a small, plastic palm tree just inside the doorway to welcome the customers. Under the palm tree stands Marifat, our local herb seller, holding up bunches of parsley.

She is blocking the passage. It has to be said. On the other hand, it is minus 15C outside, where this poor Uzbek grandmother usually stands. It is so cold that she has to keep her parsley, brought up fresh from Tashkent, wrapped in scarves inside a bag.

The shop assistant, a friendly young man called Sergei, has taken pity on her. He tries to cajole the customer. "Let me get those fish fingers for you, sir."

It does not cost much to be considerate, you might think. However, in the former Soviet Union, rudeness is more often the rule. The Ukrainian press reported recently that a woman had lost her eye after a fight at a market. She dropped a jar of mayonnaise and refused to pay for it. The enraged trader stabbed her in the eye with a shard from the bottle.

Life in Russia is a constant struggle. Even if you have enough to eat and can afford winter boots, it is a tiresome battle with quotidian problems. There is no toilet paper in the shops today. The gas goes out, so you have an ice-cold bath. The bureaucrat you need to see is always having lunch in the only time you are available. It is all too easy to vent your frustration on your fellows.

More than that, the prevailing culture seems to de-

mand that you abuse others. Russians are wonderfully warm and hospitable to their friends but churlish to people they do not know. They think we are superficially polite but cold in our friendships. In Russia, to be courteous is to show weakness. Power is everything. You must grovel to your superiors and kick your inferiors.

All of which is why the Olla mini-mart is very special. If democracy must grow from below rather than being imposed from above, then this is a workshop of democracy. It is all thanks to the culture of respect the assistants have created.

When the store first opened, two young women greeted the customers. Both teachers, Teressa and Irina were forced into shop work because they could not make ends meet. Instead of sulking, they began, as they put it, "educating the public" by being unfailingly pleasant. The customers found they enjoyed it and flocked to the shop.

Although the imported groceries were expensive, there was always a queue at the counter. Only new customers, who had not learnt that the rules were different here, jostled and cursed.

Now the teachers-turned-shops girls have gone to become governesses abroad. Sergei, a former miner, has taken over and is always obliging, even when he is exhausted. He treats each customer as an individual.

"We have so many problems in Russia," he says. "Why should we make things even more difficult by being nasty to each other?"

In the midst of economic crisis, the philosophy has paid off. While other supermarkets have gone to the wall, customers have remained loyal to the friendly mini-mart. They may not realise it but, by their small acts of decency, the staff of this corner shop are changing the world.

HELEN WOMACK

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Monks protecting themselves during an outbreak of inter-Buddhist violence that left seven injured in Seoul yesterday. About 2,000 monks tried to retake Chogye Temple, which had been seized by dissidents

AFP

**reliable** (rɪ'liəbəl) *adj.* able to be trusted; dependable.  
—reliability or reliability *n.*

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# BUSINESS

## BRIEFING

### Rise in house prices slows down

HOUSE PRICES are rising at their slowest annual rate for more than two years, according to the Nationwide's monthly house price index. Seasonally adjusted figures showed the average house price rising by just 0.1 per cent in November. Annual house price inflation is running at 6.9 per cent, its lowest level since September 1996.

Nationwide said the figure represented a 6 per cent drop on the 14 per cent peak recorded in the first three months of the year.

"Much of the recent slowdown has been due to the fall in consumer confidence since mid-year, rather than an inability on the part of housebuyers to enter the market," said David Parry, divisional director of the society.

Halifax said its own index of house prices, published today, was likely to show "a very small rise or even a slight fall" in house prices. This was because in October, Halifax recorded a 1.2 per cent rise in prices - now thought to be a freak result.

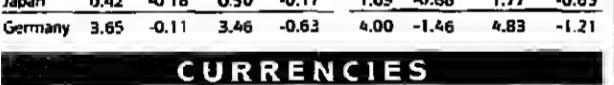
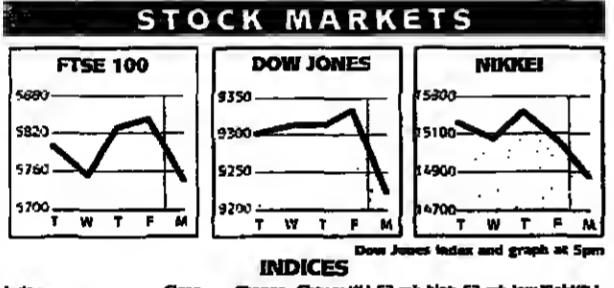
### RJB secures £1.4bn contract

 RJB, BRITAIN'S biggest coal producer (led by chief executive Richard Budge, left), last night secured a £1.4bn deal to supply 50 million tonnes of coal to Eastern Group, Britain's third biggest generator, over the next 10 years.

Eastern, which has already contracted to buy 12 million tonnes over the next three years, has agreed to take a further 18 million tonnes between now and 2008 and an extra 21 million tonnes between 2003 and 2009, provided it gets permission to fit environmental clean-up kit to its West Burton station in Nottinghamshire. The agreement will increase RJB's annual supplies to Eastern from 4 million to 7 million tonnes over the next three years.

### Consumer credit still growing

CONSUMER CREDIT increased by £1.2bn in October. This was slightly down on the previous month but still growing at a robust annual rate of 17.2 per cent, according to Bank of England figures yesterday. Mortgage lending rose £2.1bn, also little changed compared with September, while the number of new loan approvals rose by 6,000 to 85,000. The figures were stronger than analysts had expected. There is little sign yet of a downturn in consumer borrowing as the economy slows.



[www.bloomberg.com/uk](http://www.bloomberg.com/uk)

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

### TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.5261	Mexican (peso)	14.97
Austria (schillings)	19.29	Netherlands (gulden)	3.0949
Belgium (francs)	56.72	New Zealand (\$)	2.9991
Canada (\$)	2.4745	Norway (krone)	12.16
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8083	Portugal (escudos)	279.36
Denmark (krone)	10.49	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0224
Finland (markka)	8.3718	Singapore (\$)	2.6062
France (francs)	9.2193	Spain (pesetas)	233.45
Germany (marks)	2.7590	South Africa (rand)	9.0878
Greece (drachma)	461.91	Sweden (korona)	13.19
Hong Kong (\$)	12.41	Switzerland (francs)	2.2732
Ireland (pounds)	1.1013	Thailand (baht)	54.76
India (rupees)	63.33	Turkey (lira)	481597
Israel (shekels)	6.4082	USA (\$)	1.6145
Italy (lira)	2731		
Japan (yen)	200.39		
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.0224		
Malta (lira)	0.6126		

For indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

## Turmoil as Shell and Texaco abandon alliance

THE OIL SECTOR was thrown into fresh turmoil yesterday after Shell and Texaco abandoned plans to merge their downstream European operations, and reports suggested that the French oil groups Elf Aquitaine and Total are to form an alliance with Petrofina of Belgium.

By MICHAEL HARRISON  
marketing of oil products prompted speculation that the two groups could be lining up for merger partners following the BP-Amoco deal and the impending Exxon-Mobil merger.

Shell would have had an 88 per cent stake in the venture with Texaco, which was announced in September, and

would have covered both refining and petrol retailing throughout Europe.

The merger would have created a business with 16,000 petrol stations, including more than 1,500 in Britain, 19 refineries and 16 lubrication plants.

In a statement, the two companies said they had ended talks on forming an alliance after deciding it would not

maximise shareholder value. A Shell spokesman added that several areas of concern had been identified on the part of both companies but he declined to elaborate on what these were.

Shell said that the failure of the Texaco alliance would not affect its own European rationalisation programme, which will result in 3,000 job losses and the closure of four head-

quarters offices - including Shell Mex House in London. Nor would it affect Shell's existing venture with Texaco in the United States.

Meanwhile, shares in both Total and Elf made strong gains on the Paris bourse amid speculation that they were poised for a tie-up with Petrofina. Total was up 3.5 per cent and Elf 1.5 per cent.

The rise followed a report in

Belgium saying that the financier Albert Frère was close to selling his 30 per cent stake in the Belgian oil group following weekend negotiations with Elf and Total.

Shares in Petrofina were suspended pending a statement while Total is due to issue a statement this morning following a meeting of its supervisory board yesterday evening.



Rolf Breuer (left), chairman of Deutsche Bank, shaking hands with Frank Newman, chairman of Bankers Trust, in Frankfurt yesterday AP

## Deutsche-Bankers deal threatens 3,000 City jobs

THERE WERE fears yesterday that up to 3,000 jobs could go in the City after Deutsche Bank unveiled a \$10bn merger with Bankers Trust of America to create the world's biggest bank.

Speaking at a news conference in Frankfurt to announce the deal, Deutsche Bank chief executive Rolf Breuer said that 5,500 staff will be cut, with the axe falling mainly in London and New York.

Deutsche said that up to 3,000 jobs could be the biggest the City has seen, eclipsing the 2,500 jobs lost in the City following last year's merger between Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corporation - at the time the largest European banking merger ever seen.

The cuts which were far larger than staff had been led to ex-

pect will be spread evenly between global fixed income, global equity and support services, including IT and personnel. There will be no cuts in Germany.

Mr Breuer denied the bank was planning to favour staff at Deutsche which employs 6,000 in London over those at Bankers Trust, which has 2,500, many former NatWest Markets staff employed under the BT Alex Brown umbrella.

Deutsche said that it plans a one-off charge of \$1.2bn to cover severance payments. In addition it will set aside \$400m for golden handcuffs to lock in staff who fear they might walk. That raises the total cost of the acquisition for Deutsche to \$11.7bn. The \$10bn headline figure includes \$600m to cover the cost of buying out Bankers Trust's executive option scheme.

Deutsche plans a 4bn German mark rights issue to fund the deal. The bank also says that it will raise unspecified amounts from the issue of bonds, convertible warrants, assets sales and the sale of warrants convertible into shares held by Deutsche Bank in other companies including Daimler-Chrysler, the auto giant and Allianz, the German insurer.

Mr Breuer said that the deal would lead to savings of \$1bn a year from 2001. Return on equity would rise from 22.2 per cent now to at least 26 per cent in 2001.

The deal will create the

largest bank in the world with a balance sheet of \$834bn, \$888bn of assets under management and 96,442 staff.

The deal fulfils Deutsche's longstanding ambition to acquire a sizeable presence in the US. But it falls short of achieving Deutsche's ultimate dream of breaking into the charmed circle of so-called bulge bracket banks which dominate Wall Street.

Bankers Trust has a strong corporate lending business and has a large presence in bonds and foreign exchange but it has been badly hit by the recent financial crisis and is still trying to put together a credible merger and acquisitions advisory business out of a string of acquisitions, including NatWest markets in the UK and Alex

Brown and Wolfensohn in the US. Analysts said that both banks have been dealing with weak hands. In the third quarter, when the emerging markets crisis was at its worst, Bankers Trust was dumped to a loss of \$488m while Deutsche's investment banking business made just \$41m.

Mr Breuer brushed aside the critics yesterday: "Bankers Trust was an excellent fit. It was our first and best choice."

However, senior Deutsche executives have made little secret of their hope that once this deal is integrated Deutsche will be in a strong position to make a further acquisition - this time of a top tier firm like Morgan Stanley or Merrill Lynch.

Deutsche hope to complete the deal by May next year.

## Rugby cuts jobs after profits warning

By SIMON DUKE

that began to emerge in the second quarter of the year has continued into the second half. As a result, UK joinery profitability has not shown the improvement expected.

Rugby, whose primary activity is the manufacturing of wooden building products, has been affected by the general slowdown in the UK housing sector. There has also been a shift in demand, with consumers moving away from traditional wooden windows and doors, towards PVC products.

The strength of sterling has given a boost to imports, with Rugby losing significant market share to cheaper Latin American producers.

The company also said that the cessation of its contract with the Jarrow/Harcroft retailing chain had hit profits. It is believed that Rugby decided not

to renew the £40m contract due to price demands, which would have resulted in Rugby losing money on the deal.

# Two also-rans don't make a winner

IS IT Teutonic determination which is driving Deutsche Bank, or just empire-building madness? Morgan Grenfell was one of the top merchant banks in the City when Deutsche took it over in the late 1990s. Nobody would recognise it as that today, despite the hundreds of millions of pounds poured into it and the capital put behind it.

It hasn't all been Deutsche Bank's fault, but a once great City house has been reduced to an also-ran. Even its name has been largely erased from the landscape. Rather than seeing this debacle for what it is - a cock-up of considerable proportions - Deutsche blames it on Morgan Grenfell being too small to compete, particularly in the all-important US investment banking market. To correct the position, it is now buying Bankers Trust, which at least has the merit of already being an also-ran, both in the UK and the US.

Will two also-rans make a top dog? It hasn't so far worked at Warburg Dillon Read, which is still in a state of profound post-surgical shock after last year's merger with UBS.

The pain of this latest City merger is likely to be even worse. Obviously, for employees there is nothing other than a P45 in these bugs con-



## OUTLOOK

solidating mergers, while it goes without saying that clients and customers rarely gain a dime. But it is not clear that shareholders get anything out of them either, long term.

Deutsche reckons the tradeable securities are now so much a part of global banking that it cannot be a serious bank without an investment banking presence. Just try that one on Sir Brian Pitman, chairman of Lloyds TSB.

### Taylor/Barclays

IF IT was not apparent to the Barclays board on Friday that Martin Taylor's shock resignation as chief

executive would plunge the bank into crisis, it must be by now. The more that becomes known about Mr Taylor's progressive alienation from his fellow directors, the more shambolic and worrying the situation at Barclays appears.

Obviously the bank is not about to go under, and indeed, compared to the same stage of the last cycle, Barclays seems operationally to be in good shape. What the management crisis has exposed, however, is a corporate governance issue of scandalous proportions. By the end, the number of executives on the board involved in day-to-day management amounted to just three, including Mr Taylor. The rest of the board seems to be largely comprised of friends of Andrew Buxton, the chairman.

At least three of these, including Mr Buxton, are there on a virtually full-time "executive" basis, yet apart from drawing large salaries and occupying big offices, with corresponding secretarial back-up, it's hard to know what their purpose is.

One thing that directors in this position do is scheme, meddle and stop the chief executive doing what he wants to do. Mr Taylor found himself blocked at every turn. His

board suspected him of leaking to the press to bulldoze his proposals through, he suspected them of leaking in order to undermine him.

With Sir Andrew Large's elevation into another "phantom" executive position last May, the situation became untenable. Sir Andrew behaved like a corporate commissioner, double checking the chief executive's every move and arranging his own independent meetings with management and advisers.

Sir Andrew's manoeuvrings so alienated other senior executives that when the job as chief executive did become vacant, he was passed over in favour of a compromise candidate, Sir Peter Middleton. Sir Andrew may have succeeded in finally driving Mr Taylor out, but he put paid to his own chances in the process.

The board's apparent failure to deal with these warring factions is bad enough. A more serious charge is that the board stood between Mr Taylor and the pursuit of shareholder value. Mr Taylor believed strongly that Barclays Capital, the bank's investment banking arm, had become a drag on the company's stock valuation.

This in turn meant that the re-

tal bank was prevented from pursuing an appropriate consolidating merger - with, say, Halifax - on advantageous terms. The way forward was therefore to sell or hive off Barclays Capital, possibly in conjunction with the rest of the bank's corporate business.

The rest of the board thought this approach too radical; several directors believed a bank of Barclays stature must in any case have an investment banking arm. To some extent it became a vestiges of emprise versus shareholder value argument. But it was also an us and them thing. Mr Taylor never entirely fitted. The City must make up its own mind on who was right, but certainly what remains of the board seems to lack any kind of coherent alternative strategy.

A corporate finance solution to the management and strategy vacuum would still seem like the best outcome. George Mathewson, chief executive of Royal Bank of Scotland, would for one gladly reverse his bank into Barclays if he could manage it out of Edinburgh. So would Halifax. But having blocked so much else, the board is undoubtedly too proud to consider anything of the sort. After all, there are those salaries to defend.

penalty from the EC - the first such occasion this has occurred - allowing it to bid unconditionally without fear of punishment.

This does not automatically mean the deal will be cleared by Brussels. But having given EdF a dispensation, it would be odd if the EC decided then to block the takeover.

Will Mr Mandelson be so well disposed towards the French? Unlike previous foreign takeovers in the electricity sector, this bid raises concerns for two reasons. First, EdF itself cannot be taken over because it is state-owned. Second, this deal amounts to vertical integration because EdF already supplies 7 per cent of the UK market through the interconnector from France.

Mr Mandelson is not too impressed by the fact that the interconnector only runs one way. As for back-door renationalisation of London, that would never have been allowed under the Lilley doctrine. But remember this is new Labour and Mr Mandelson is its most ardent advocate of privatisation. Brussels may keep the right to vet the merger, but EdF has to rely on the British authorities to transfer London's licence. EdF could be unscratched yet.

## Barclays hawks urged dismissal for Taylor

BY ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

AT LEAST one Barclays director called for chief executive Martin Taylor to be fired as chief executive on Thursday night after Mr Taylor informed the board that he intended to resign with immediate effect, it emerged yesterday.

At a tense meeting on Thursday night some board members argued that given his refusal to stay on, it gave

Barclays time to find a successor a statement should be put out saying that Mr Taylor had been dismissed with immediate effect. However, the hawks on the board backed down after consultation with both Barclays lawyers and lawyers acting for Mr Taylor.

The angry boardroom scenes came after Sir Nigel Mobbs, the senior non-executive called in to deal with the crisis, asked Mr Taylor over lunch on Wednesday to stay on until a succession plan could be put in place.

The tension between Mr Tay-

lor and his board goes back at least two years, but was brought to a head by a row at the October board meeting over the former chief executive's proposals to demerge the bank's corporate and retail operations.

Other board members have

rounded on Sir Andrew Large, deputy chairman, criticising him for compounding the difficulties on the board by seeking to get involved with day-to-day management decisions that were not properly his responsibility.

With relations deteriorating, Mr Taylor agreed two months ago to the appointment of Spencer Stuart as outside headhunters to examine alternative candidates for his job.

Sir Peter Middleton, who stepped into the breach, will be spending most of the week talking to shareholders who



Sir Nigel Mobbs, non-executive director at Barclays, who asked Martin Taylor to stay on as chief executive until a succession plan could be put in place; Mr Taylor's refusal angered the board

have been unsettled by the recent events. Barclays' board is due to meet in two weeks to put together the outlines of a strategy for rebuilding confidence in the bank.

As the search for Mr Taylor's replacement began, Chris Lendum, the head of Barclays' UK corporate banking business has emerged as the internal front-runner to take over as

chief executive from Martin Taylor who quit the bank in dramatic fashion last Friday.

Senior Barclays executives have said that they would prefer to look outside the bank. Among the more plausible names being put forward yesterday were Peter Burt, the well-regarded chief executive of the Bank of Scotland, Peter White, chief executive of Al-

liance & Leicester and Martin Gray head of retail at NatWest.

However, industry insiders say the dearth of obvious candidates for the job may lead the board to settle for the option of an internal promotion after all.

Mr Lendum, who joined the main board in June, is a career Barclays man who came up through the same central planning route as Malcolm

Williamson who went on to run Standard Chartered, the UK quoted Asian bank.

Analysts have suggested a management buy-in by Alliance & Leicester or even Bank of Scotland might be the solution.

But the idea was dismissed as "laughable" by Barclays insiders. One said: "It is a ridiculous and highly risky way to get yourself a new chief executive."

## Vickers buys Oslo marine firm for £380m

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

have net debt following the takeover, although it said the deal would be earnings enhancing and, at worst, interest cover would be covered at least five times by earnings.

Baron Buyse, Vickers' chief executive, defended the price being paid for Ulstein by saying the combined business would be a world leader. The takeover could result in some rationalisation of capacity in Edinburgh, where Ulstein and Vickers' own marine propulsion business, Kamewa, both have facilities.

The combined business will have sales of £500m and more than 2,300 employees. Mr Buyse said he did not foresee any difficulties with European competition authorities over market dominance.

The move by Vickers to deepen its involvement in marine engineering prompted speculation that it may dispose of its Challenger 2 tank business, either by selling it to a US buyer like United Defense or merging it with the new GKN-Advis joint venture in fighting vehicles.

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£50,000+	7.65%	7.10%	6.88%
£25,000+	7.40%	6.90%	6.69%
£10,000+	7.00%	6.50%	6.31%
HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL GOLD			
£100,000+	7.35%	6.80%	6.60%
£50,000+	7.15%	6.60%	6.41%
£25,000+	7.05%	6.55%	6.36%
£10,000+	6.60%	6.10%	5.94%
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1st December 1998

### IN BRIEF

#### Rexam bids £380m for Swedish packaging giant

REXAM, the UK's second-largest maker of food containers and beverage cans, has bid 7.7bn kronor (£380m) for Sweden's largest consumer packaging company, PLM. Rexam, whose chief executive Rolf Boerjesson led PLM until 1996, will assume debt of Kr2.64bn. PLM spokesman Per Erlandsson said the board would probably decide on the bid at its next meeting 8 December. PLM has 20 per cent of the European beverage can market.

#### Midshires deadline for votes

BIRMINGHAM MIDSHIRES has made a final call to members to send in their votes on the £750m Halifax takeover offer. Proxy voting forms on the deal must be returned by midnight next Tuesday. Midshires is offering preference shares worth £400 each to the majority of members. For the bid to be accepted, more than 50 per cent of all savers, and a majority of borrowers voting, must vote in favour.

#### Uno shares dive 15 per cent

SHARES in Uno, the furniture retailer, shed 15 per cent of their value yesterday as the company revealed same store sales in the 26 weeks to 7 November had fallen by 11.6 per cent year-on-year. Uno said the traditionally quiet first half would show a "significant loss". Analysts have cut full-year profit forecasts from £4.75m to £2.75m. Separately, Fine Art Developments, the home shopping company, warned it expects a "material reduction" in profits this year due to lower margins, higher pension costs and millennium compliance costs.

#### NTT offer for Europe

EUROPEAN investors are to be allowed to buy up to 175,000 shares in NTT, the Japanese telecoms giant, when the Japanese government sells 1 million shares - a 6 per cent stake - in the group later this month. Roughly two-thirds of the shares are reserved for Japanese investors, while the remainder will be offered in the US.

#### Lord Wolfson

THE photograph which accompanied yesterday's article on Great Universal Stores was incorrect. The picture showed Lord Wolfson of Marylebone. The chairman of GUS is Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale. We apologise for the error.

HSBC

Midland Bank

## Notice to cardholders

Midland Bank announces the following

decrease in its interest rates.

Effective from (and including)

1 January 1999.

Standard  
Monthly  
Interest  
rate

Midland MasterCard/Visa,  
Combined & Student Accounts

Up to and including 31/12/98 1.61%

1/1/99 onwards 1.54%

• Terms & Conditions will be varied accordingly with effect from the date above







# Kingfisher buoyant as Footsie sinks

KINGFISHER WAS the stock market's monarch yesterday. The retail giant, which counts B&Q, Woolworths and Superdrug among its subjects, fought valiantly against Footsie's three-digit slide and was one of the few stocks still standing at the end of the day.

A note from the broker Charterhouse Tilney, which identified Kingfisher as the pick of an undervalued retail sector, sent the stock on its way. With analysts Mark Charnock and Ian McDonald musing about a "massive upside in B&Q" and saying there was "still upside in Woolworths", the stock could only go up.

The positive mood intensified after talk that chief executive Sir Geoff Mulcahy had told analysts that the venture with the French giant Castorama was on the acquisition trail. Receding fears of a bearish trading statement next week added to the bullish sentiment and an all-time record was in sight.

In the event, Kingfisher closed up 29.5p at 578p, the biggest Footsie riser of the day, but just short of its 582.5p peak.

Other retailers to benefit from

## MARKET REPORT



FRANCESCO GUERRERA

Charterhouse's wisdom included Footsie candidate Dixons, up 13p to 837.7p as the broker highlighted the chance of a share buyback. WH Smith, up 4p to 481p, was also favoured by the broker.

Footsie did not share the retailers' joy. The blue-chip index traded sideways for most of the day before being hit by the chill wind coming from Wall Street. Profit-taking in the US sparked a late sell-off which left Footsie 100.3 worse off at 574.9.

The smaller indices were more cushioned against the international

bearishness. The Mid Cap finished 24.2 lower at 4901.7, while the Small Cap fell 5.9 to 2065.0. The new All-Small index, which brings together the Small Cap and the Fledgling indices, ended its first day down 0.3 at 1172.67.

BT was hit by a rogue trade. The telecom group was down 47.5p to 830.5p - Footsie's worst performer - after a few shares changed hands at 830.5p one minute before the close. Until then the shares had been coasting along at around 837p.

Royal Bank of Scotland, down 5 per cent to 913p, was BT's rival for the wooden spoon, as the market fretted over the size of the bad debts to be unveiled with Thursday's results.

United News and Media shed 26.55p after losing another senior executive, Roger Laughton, the head of its broadcasting unit, to retire at Easter next year.

Desperate picture at Carlton. The ITV company, results today, tumbled with a 4.5 per cent rise to 487p amid talk that it is to buy PolyGram's film library and an ABN Amro buy note.

BT did talk the business for FKI too. The engineer was hoisted over

8 per cent to 146.5p on whispers that a US predator has eyed its software business. Broker Panmure also gave the stock a friendly push.

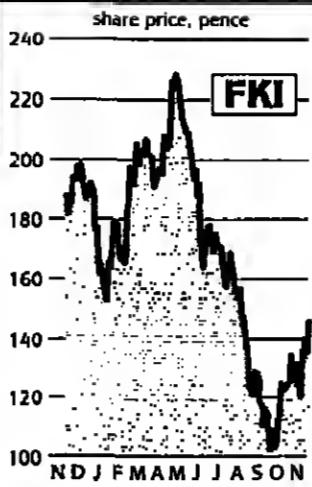
AEA Technology, up 22.5p to 800p was not far off. The business

CONNAUGHT, a West-Country-based facilities management group, began its stock market adventure with a 15.5p gain to 140.5p. The company, traded on AIM, specialises in the maintenance of council houses and schools. Yesterday it raised over £3m through a placing of 2.5 million shares. The money will be used to fund bolt-on acquisitions in the fast-growing cleaning and maintenance sector and to expand across the country.

services group was helped by better-than-expected results and good prospects for its nuclear clean-up operations.

Emerson, the US giant stalking the electronic minnow Astec with the £265m bid, took a giant step towards

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Source: Datamonitor

victory. The Americans bought 27 per cent of Astec in the market at the 85p bid price. They now own over 75 per cent of their prey. A batch of shareholders, including Royal & SunAlliance and Capital, were said to be among the sellers. Astec finished up 0.5p at 84.5p on massive volume of 5.2 million shares.

Creos International, a small producer of generators for medical

imaging companies, plunged 44 per cent to 4.75p - the worst fall in the whole market - after announcing the disposal of its US operations to avoid running out of cash.

These days profit warnings come

RUMOURS of bid activity at United Carriers, up 2p to 16p. The parcels group is said to have received an approach of £5m-£10m from GE Capital, the financial services arm of General Electric of the US. However, United's board is thought to be hostile to the bid. The company was at the centre of takeover speculation in February when it announced merger talks with a mystery partner. The negotiations were called off in April.

in family packs. Yesterday it was "buy one, get five free" day. Elementis, the former Harrisons & Crosfield, was the more eye-catching. The chemicals group shed 22 per cent to close at a five-year low of 75p after warning of a slump in

sales in its core businesses. Elementis's poor chemistry dragged down fellow chemical groups. Albright & Wilson, down 4.2 per cent to 80p, Yule Catto, 13p lower at 264.5p, and Croda International, down 9.5p to 245.5p, were all tarred with the same brush.

Rugby was also in a scrum. The building materials group cautioned about its joinery business and fell over 7 per cent to 81.5p. The other profit warnings came from the minnows.

Crutchley Group, an electro-components maker, shed 115p to 455p after blaming market conditions for an interim plunge. Recycling Services, a waste business, threw away 19 per cent to 20.5p after a profit slide. UNO, the furniture maker, was sitting uncomfortably after a bearish trading update sent the shares down 15 per cent to 46p.

Nord Anglia, a provider of educational services, made it six with a warning that its language division has been hit by sterling's strength. It lost 2.5p to 164.5p.

SEAO VOLUME: 936.7 million  
SEAO TRADES: 68,398  
GILT INDEX: n/a

Investment: Chemicals specialist runs into trouble after selling off other businesses

## Elementis plunges on profit warning

ELEMENTIS, the company formerly known as Harrisons & Crosfield, yesterday shocked the stock market with a profit warning just as it completed its transformation into a pure specialty chemical group.

Shares in Elementis, which changed its name earlier this year after selling off its timber and pet-foods business, lost 27 per cent of their value as the company warned that demand for its chemical products had suffered a slowdown as a result of the Asian crisis and declined in the aerospace industry.

The warning came as Elementis sold BOCM Pauls, its pig production and animal feed division, to a management buyout team backed by Electra Fleming, the venture capital group, for £60m. The sale, which triggers an £11m exceptional loss, completes Elementis' year-long conversion from a sprawling conglomerate into a company concentrating on specialty chemicals.

The strategy has largely won the support of the City. In retrospect, however, Elementis could hardly have chosen a worse time to make

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

the switch. As yesterday's warning made clear, demand for both its main product lines has taken a hit in the second half of the year.

Sales of chrome oxide, which is used in the production of super-alloys for the aerospace industry, have been hit by destocking. Meanwhile, slower demand for paints in the US has hit the group's pigments division. The shares dropped 21p to 75p.

Lyndon Cole, the new Elementis chief executive who was brought in from General Electric of the US earlier this year, said the poor performance had nothing to do with the company's restructuring. "It's purely down to economic factors feeding through," he said, adding that he expected some improvement in trading in the first quarter of 1999.

But analysts were dismayed. "This profit warning has come as a bolt from the blue," said Jeremy Chantry, chemicals analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing. He now forecasts pre-tax profits of £25m for the year

to December, with a small rise to £35m next year.

Michael Eastwood, analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said: "Everything is going wrong. The environment is appalling."

Despite the disappointment, few observers felt the need to question Elementis's strategy of concentrating on chemicals. "Anything is better than pigs and animal feeds," said Williams de Broe analyst Peter Cartwright. "At least they've got one foot out of the mire."

The share price drop might even make Elementis a bid target. Britain's specialty chemicals sector has been seen as ripe for consolidation for some time, as large chemical companies seek to add new products to their portfolio by snapping up smaller niche players. In the past year a number of smaller companies such as Allied Colloids, Courtaulds and Inspec have been taken over.

"Elementis is now quite a tasty morsel," one observer said.

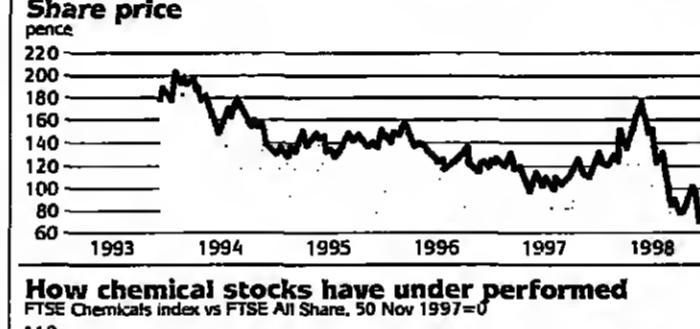
However, analysts played down the likelihood of a bid, pointing out that Elementis's chrome and pig-

## ELEMENTIS: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £325m, share price 75p (-21p)

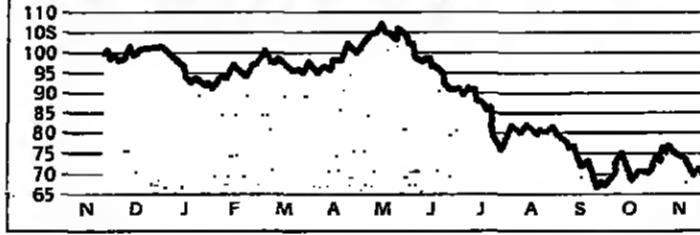
Five-year record	1994	1996	1997	1997	1998*
Turnover (£bn)	2.11	2.05	2.05	1.92	-
Pre-tax profits (£m)	237.00	120.00	121.00	-113.00	50.00
Earnings per share (p)	-	-	11.20*	-16.40	8.50
Dividends per share (p)	-	-	9.00	3.60	4.00

\* Credit Lyonnais Laing forecasts before exceptional items and goodwill



Source: Datamonitor

## How chemical stocks have underperformed



THE JOINT press conference given by Rolf Breuer, Deutsche Bank's chairman, and his counterpart Frank Newman of Bankers Trust to outline their \$9bn link-up yesterday illustrated perfectly their relationship. Mr Breuer hogged the podium for a good 25 minutes, leaving Mr Newman just five minutes at the end.

Fair enough. As Mr Breuer pointed out: "This is an acquisition."

It's good to see that the integration of the German and American banks is going to be pushed ahead with typical Teutonic efficiency. As Deutsche's press release put it, they are "planning to complete the deal by May 1998" - some nine months before it was signed.

JANET SIDAWAY has thoroughly enjoyed being one of the City's top-rated engineering analysts for the last 15 years, but now she is quitting her current employers, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, in favour of King's College, London, to do a two-year postgraduate diploma in theology and religious studies.

"I don't really like publicity," Ms Sidaway, says, adding that her colleagues' response to her new found career has involved "a lot of offfice".

So why the switch? "It's something I've always wanted to do, and now seemed the right time," she says. She is already used to big changes, having followed a first class degree in English from York University with seven years as an engineer with TI Group, back in the 1970s.

In a Who's Who of Analysts dated 1992 she listed her interests as "Wagner, Romanesque art, gardening". Clearly the engineering sector will be a duller place without her.

SMALL BUSINESSES running into financial difficulties can now ring a state-of-the-art helpline from Pannell Kerr Forster, the accountants, called "A Friend in Need".

Hang on a minute. The "Friend" line is being run by PKF's insolvency practitioners. Who wants to ring up an undertaker if you're in trouble?

John Alexander, senior insolvency partner at PKF, and currently receiver of the Fashion Cafe in Lon-

don, says there shouldn't be a "perception problem" with the line. "People know we're not the ogres we're portrayed as - we're not ghouls out to get what we can."

In fact the helpline is mostly run by businesses which are having trouble collecting debts from other firms - and want to know the best way to get their money back. Something Mr Alexander and his chaps are experts at.

"Insolvency is a nasty word perhaps, but people want to know what the procedures are," he concludes.

DAVID POTTER, chief executive of Guinness Mahon, is looking forward to Saturday. His colleagues from Investec, the South African financial services group which bought Guinness Mahon earlier this year, are flying in en masse to watch the rugby Test match at Twickenham between England and South Africa. The bank has even rebranded the match as the "Investec International".

Mr Potter is betting on 23-17 England, although he admits that his visitors led by Bernard Kanton, Investec Group's managing director, "will no doubt give you a different score."

It will be an historic occasion whatever happens, since the world champion Springboks are seeking to break the All Blacks' world record of 17 consecutive Test victories.

The lucky chap who wins the Man of the Match award will receive a Krugerrand supplied by Investec - a gold coin first minted in South Africa on 3 July 1967 which has since become a standard for gold, and is currently worth around £179.

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## SPORT

A game in financial crisis: Outside the prosperous Premiership, many clubs are walking a perilous tightrope

# Where football is a fight for survival

By NICK HARRIS

FOOTBALL CLUB for sale. Period building in own grounds on site of local historic interest. Large lawn. Outside toilet. Needs new roof and a few million pounds to clear debts. Several previous owners. Open to offers.

Welcome to the Football League of the late 1990s. While the Premier League is booming – in August the accountants Deloitte & Touche declared it the richest in the world – the rest of England's professional game is struggling to cope.

It is not just lower division clubs – Chester in administration, Hull's new consortium yet to prove it can pull the club back from the brink – fighting for survival. First Division Portsmouth yesterday announced they have been forced to ask the Professional Footballers' Association for a £150,000 loan to pay wages. Oxford United, with debts estimated at £13m, are in trouble and trying to sell players to balance the books. Numerous club owners, according to an *Independent* survey of the Nationwide's 72 sides, are looking for buyers.

Kenneth Booth, the chairman of Rotherham, fourth in the Third Division, gave a succinct summary of life in the basement. "It's a hard job just to survive: the gate money's not big enough, the wages are too big and there's no money trickling down.

"They [clubs in the lowest two divisions] are all skin, living hand to mouth," he added, and said Rotherham are in existence only "because I'm a silly bugger". Losses of "hundreds of thousands of pounds per year" are met from his own pocket. "Everyone is in the same boat," he said. Selling the club would be an attractive proposition, if only he could find a buyer. "I'd do it today."

Booth's views are replicated by many Third Division clubs. "It's very, very difficult," Don Rowing, Scunthorpe's chief executive, said. "People are working very hard to increase commercial revenue, but you do wonder what the future holds." Scunthorpe made a small profit in May, Rowing said, but that was due to £100,000 transfer income and £100,000 television money for a Littlewoods Cup tie with Everton. Rowing said most clubs at his level are bearing losses of £180,000 to £300,000 per season. "I don't see part-time football as an option, but some may be forced down that route."

One club forced down that route is Halifax. Relegated to the Football Conference in 1993 (where they remained until promotion this summer), Halifax went part-time to survive. Jim Brown, the chairman, said the years of non-League football helped the club to become more financially prudent.

"It gave us a new lease of life," he said. "We cut the cloth to suit and wound [our costs] down and down." Since returning to the League, the club has gone full-time again, but is operating on a tighter budget, that, for the first time, has no income from transfer fees factored into it. "We run a very tight ship," Brown said. Halifax made a small loss last year but will post a profit this season thanks to the £350,000 sale of Geoff Horsfield to Fulham. Brown is optimistic about the future, and puts the club's financial success down to the fact that he has kept wages in check.

Barry Hearn, head of the Third Division chairmen's committee and



Gareth Barry: The income Third Division Brighton will receive from the sale of the 17-year-old defender to Aston Villa will transform the Seagulls' finances. Depending upon appearances, the fee could rise above £1m – nearly a season's wage bill at Brighton.

Matthew Upson: When Luton sold the 19-year-old defender to Arsenal last year, the £2m fee covered the average budgeted loss of £1.6m. The Hatters still need a few more Upsons to pay for the stadium on which the chairman says the future depends.

John Aloisi: Portsmouth announced yesterday that their finances are so bad, money is being borrowed from the FFA to pay wages. Australian striker Aloisi, once rated at £2m, could be sold off for as little as £500,000 in an attempt to balance the books.



Joey Beauchamp: Oxford's 27-year-old midfielder is on the market for around £800,000, but even his sale would go little way to clearing debts estimated at £13m. United's plight is typical – sell players and be damned by lack of talent or don't sell and go under.



Geoff Horsfield: The 25-year-old striker was a Conference player with Halifax in the Spring, but his talents persuaded Fulham to pay £350,000 to lure him from The Shay. The income will help Halifax show a profit in their first season back in the League.



Steve Bywater: The 17-year-old goalkeeper's sale by Rochdale to West Ham could keep the Lancastrians in profit for years. Depending on appearances, the deal could be worth £300,000 to £2m. Rochdale's losses are usually hundreds of thousands a year.

chairman at Leyton Orient, sees pay as a key issue and is preparing a proposal that might see wage capping introduced into the Third Division on a voluntary basis from next summer. In the 1996-97 season, Third Division clubs had a total combined turnover of £25.2m, more than £17.7m of which (70 per cent, or £20,000 on average) was spent on players' wages. In several cases, wages alone exceeded turnover. Hearn's proposals would see clubs' total salary bills capped

to around 60 per cent of turnover, possibly with a fixed absolute ceiling.

"It [wage capping] would have to be some form of voluntary agreement with an arrangement for fines as with rugby league," said Hearn. Rugby league clubs agree not to spend more than 51 per cent of their projected income on transfers or they forfeit income from Sky TV deals. The effect has been to restrain susceptible clubs from spending themselves into bankruptcy but has

done little to bridge the gap between the richest and poorest sides. Hearn's proposals may work better if there is an absolute capping level, but also run the risk of being unacceptable to those clubs that survive through benefactors with aspirations as high as their pockets are deep.

In many cases in football benefactors are conspicuous only by their absence. For Southend and Plymouth, among others, long-term survival probably depends on someone

investing heavily and building new stadiums. The same goes for Preston, Luton, Blackpool, Bristol Rovers and Colchester in the Second Division.

At Swanscombe, which has been owned by Silvershield plc since August 1997, the future is equally dependent on moving. "Should that [relocation] not happen, Swanscombe will join the other clubs on the market," Steve Hamer, the club's chairman, said. In the near future, Hamer, who is also a member of the Third

having a knock-on effect and clubs like Lincoln simply can't compete."

In the First Division, the pressures are different but equally intense. "It's a catch 22," Ian Fleming, Grimsby's chief executive, said. "If you pay your players less, you lose matches and ultimately go down and lose market share. But we even have to compete for players with some of the bigger clubs in the Conference who are paying considerable wages."

Geoff Richmond, the chairman of Bradford – one of the League's most astutely run clubs – is of the same opinion, but at least admits some damage is self-inflicted. "Ninety per cent of most clubs' expenditure is related to players. As chairman we are all guilty of it. But I've never had a player or a player's agent holding a gun to my head."

While rising costs are forcing many owners to think of selling, and investors only seem to be attracted by clubs that offer commercial (often property-related) development opportunities, some of the most senior people in the game see a need for struggling clubs to simply cut costs and start being more professional in their business dealings.

"The Football League has to move away from the begging bowl culture into a help yourself culture," said David Sheepshanks, who is Ipswich's chairman, and had been, until last month, the chairman of the Football League for two years. "That said, it is very tough," he added, pointing out that unless football clubs act collectively for the good of the game, there will be serious repercussions. The Premier League's court case with the Office of Fair Trading (which will decide whether individual clubs have the right to make their own television deals and hence effectively give a few clubs the majority of television money) starts in January.

Sheepshanks pointed out that Premier League attendances are around 11m people per season (or 29,000 people per game) and – with Premiership clubs receiving around £3m each from television – average profits in the top flight are £4.5m per club per year. In the First Division, where attendances are 8.5m (or just over 15,000 people per game), clubs receive under £200,000 each from television and make average annual losses of £1.5m. Half-size attendances are rewarded with one-tenth of television revenues and ultimately lead to losses. The lower down the League you go, the bigger the divide becomes.

Richard Scudamore, the chief executive of the Football League, said the OFT case is "singularly the most important issue facing football right now. TV rights are the most significant source of revenue and if we're not allowed to negotiate collectively, equality of wealth distribution will never happen."

That said, smaller clubs must still learn to run themselves better, he said. "There are plenty of well-run clubs in the conference so I think we'll see a 72 club League for some time to come," he added, signalling that although times are hard, there is to be no room for the weak or sentimental. Football's minnows should survive without having to make a mint.

Additional reporting by Alaric Nightingale and Joe Morris

## LIFE IN THE NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: A CLUB-BY-CLUB GUIDE TO THE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE 72 MEMBERS

FIRST DIVISION		SECOND DIVISION		THIRD DIVISION	
Turnover	Wages	Turnover	Wages	Turnover	Wages
<b>Barnsley</b>	3.7m	2.6m	0.3m	<b>Millwall</b>	4.1m 4.1m (2.9m)
70m when in Premiership, budgeted for relegation. Relatively stable.		Blackpool	2.4m 2.0m (0.8m)	Chairman Theo Paphitis has cut losses, but his future involvement uncertain. May sell if offer came in.	
<b>Birmingham</b>	7.6m	4.9m	1.1m	<b>Barnet</b>	n/d n/d 0.4m
Bankrolled by David Sullivan. Managed well financially by Karen Brady.		Bristol Rovers	1.4m 1.5m (3.000)	Losing £5,000 per week, but making amends by selling players. Tight budgets.	
<b>Bolton</b>	7.7m	6.2m (3.3m)	1.1m 1.0m (0.5m)	<b>Brentford</b>	1.9m 1.0m 1.0m
£17m in the red but have assets, including old ground Burnden Park.		Bournemouth	1.1m 1.0m (0.5m)	Lost £500,000 last season. Ron Noades will inject £1.5m this year. Future hinges on new stadium.	
<b>Bury</b>	1.9m	1.3m (0.9m)	1.1m 1.0m (0.6m)	<b>Brighton</b>	1.1m 1.1m (1.4m)
No comment from the club. Are finding First Division more expensive than Second.		Bristol City	1.4m 1.5m (3,000)	Back from near extinction. Small profit forecast (due to Gareth Barry's sale).	
<b>Bradford</b>	7.6m	n/a 1.7m	1.6m n/d (98,000)	<b>Cambridge Utd</b>	0.8m 0.8m (0.1m)
Well run, capable of profits. Would like to share facilities with rugby league club to increase profitability.		Bristol Rovers	1.4m 1.5m (3,000)	Budgeted losses of £300,000 per year. Would consider selling.	
<b>Bristol City</b>	2.3m	2.0m (0.4m)	1.2m 0.8m (18,000)	<b>Cardiff</b>	1.2m n/a (0.2m)
Lost £300,000 to May. Surviving by benefactor chairman Warri new stadium.		Colchester	0.9m 0.8m (18,000)	Future "is all up in the air." Takeover soon?	
<b>Bury</b>	1.9m	1.3m (0.9m)	£250,000 loss projected this year. Low wages already. Relying on new stadium.	<b>Reading</b>	3.3m 3.0m (0.5m)
No comment from the club. Are finding First Division more expensive than Second.		Fulham	2.1m 1.5m (0.8m)	New stadium will help ease financial worries – if it can be fitted.	
<b>Carlton</b>	7.6m	n/a 1.7m	3.2m 1.0m (1.2m)	<b>Stoke</b>	5.0m 2.9m (0.3m)
Well run, capable of profits. Would like to share facilities with rugby league club to increase profitability.		Cheltenham	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	"We're in our worst case scenario," said spokesman on being relegated. Need immediate promotion to prosper.	
<b>Cheltenham</b>	2.3m	2.0m (0.4m)	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	<b>Walsall</b>	2.4m 1.7m 22,000
Lost £300,000 to May. Surviving by benefactor chairman Warri new stadium.		Colchester	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	Well run club, many extra-football activities (including boxing) help small profits	
<b>Crewe</b>	1.4m	1.1m 0.3m	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	<b>Wigan</b>	0.9m 1.7m (1.8m)
Wage spiral having a big effect. Relegation would exacerbate problems.		Coventry	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	Losing £1m+ per year. Low attendances. Surviving by benefactor chairman.	
<b>Crystal Palace</b>	7.9m	5m (0.5m)	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	<b>Wrexham</b>	1.7m 1.4m (0.5m)
No comment from club. Chairman Mark Goldberg overseeing revue of club's finances. Timp Group Limited, an oil company, announced "substantial sums" available for the club on Sunday.		Derby County	1.9m 1.8m (28,000)	Making small profits through tight budgets. Investing in a new stand to attract higher crowds.	
<b>Grimsby</b>	2.2m	2.0m 0.5m	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	<b>Wimbledon</b>	3.2m 1.8m (0.4m)
Making small profits but looking to relocate to achieve growth.		Exeter City	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	"Existing from season to season," said a spokesman. Losing £1.5m per year. Sell if good offer.	
<b>Huddersfield</b>	3.7m	2.3m (0.2m)	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	<b>Wolverhampton</b>	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)
Lost £300,000 to May. Will lose same again this year. Currently negotiating a sell-out to millionaire local businessman.		Fleetwood Town	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	Benefactor chairman happy to meet yearly losses. "I'm still a nutcase."	
<b>Ipswich</b>	6.2m	4.3m 1.1m	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	<b>Wrexham</b>	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)
Loss of £1.4m to May this year, but generally stable.		Grimsby	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	Recently on the brink, future dependent on money and will of new consortium.	
<b>Leeds United</b>	11.4m	7.2m (6.2m)	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	<b>Wimbledon</b>	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)
Owner Sir Jack Hayward wants stringent cuts to stem continuing losses. Typical of a club aiming for the Premiership.		Leeds United	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	Benefactor chairman happy to meet yearly losses. "I'm still a nutcase."	
<b>Millwall</b>	4.1m	4.1m (2.9m)	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	<b>Wolverhampton</b>	0.8m 0.5m (27,000)
Chairman Theo Paphitis has cut losses, but his future involvement uncertain. May sell if offer came in.		Millwall	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	Came back from brink four years ago. Taken over by oil company last year. Hope for small profits.	
<b>Nottingham Forest</b>	1.1m	1.0m (0.3m)	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	<b>Wrexham</b>	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)
No comment from club. For sale to the right buyer. Losing money.		Millwall	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	Benefactor chairman happy to meet yearly losses. "I'm still a nutcase."	
<b>Portsmouth</b>	4.4m	3.3m (2.1m)	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	<b>Wimbledon</b>	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)
Losing a lot of money, chairman might sell. "Everything has a price," said spokesman.		Millwall	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	Recently on the brink, future dependent on money and will of new consortium.	
<b>Southend</b>	3.0m	2.4m (0.9m)	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	<b>Wolverhampton</b>	0.8m 0.6m (23,000)
No comment. Healthier than most due to substantial support. Might survive better in the Premier League next time if promoted.		Millwall	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	Solvent, but "for sale for the past two to three years." Would sell to "the right buyer."	
<b>Stockport</b>	2.9m	1.8m 0.3m	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	<b>Wolverhampton</b>	0.8m 0.6m (23,000)
Commercial activity and community ventures have led to small profits		Millwall	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	Prognoses based on interviews with chairman or club spokesmen unless stated.	
<b>Southend</b>	1.3m	5.7m 3m	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)	<b>Wolverhampton</b>	0.8m 0.6m (23,000)
No comment. Healthier than most due to substantial support. Might survive better in the Premier League next time if promoted.		Millwall	1.1m 1.0m (0.3m)		
<b>Southend&lt;/</b>					

# Marino passes magical 400 total

THE MIAMI quarterback, Dan Marino, has been overshadowed by the other passing legend, Denver's John Elway, for much of the season, but on Sunday the veteran Dolphin reclaimed centre stage when he threw the 400th touchdown pass of his 16-year career.

The pass, one of three scoring plays to the receiver O J McDuffie in the 30-10 win over the New Orleans Saints, means that Marino is the only player ever to throw 400 touchdowns. The achievement is all the more remarkable when you consider that Elway, the third most prolific touchdown passer ever, has yet to throw 300.

Marino has been around long enough to realise that owning virtually every record counts for little, and he would probably happily give them all up for the one thing he craves most, a Super Bowl ring. "It's a lot of touchdown passes," he said afterwards, "but winning is the most important thing."

That has always been the tenet of the irascible Saints coach, Mike Ditka, who guided

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

BY NICK HALLING

the Chicago Bears to the championship in 1986. Success has proved harder to come by in New Orleans, and while Ditka has worked hard to control his infamous temper, the loss in Miami prompted another spectacular tirade.

"That is the most pathetic exhibition of football I have ever seen," he fumed. "Defense was horrible, offense was horrible, and special teams weren't any better. We were out-coached and outplayed."

High drama in New England, where the Patriots kept their season alive with a dramatic 25-21 victory over the Buffalo Bills. Their quarterback, Drew Bledsoe, played the game despite a double fracture of the index finger in his throwing hand, and his leadership proved the difference in a hard-fought affair.

The game's final moments proved highly controversial.



Steve DeBerg, the Atlanta Falcons quarterback, prepares to pass as team-mate Bob Whitfield blocks Mike Jones of the St Louis Rams AP

Trailing by four points, Bledsoe led his team on one last drive. With less than 10 seconds left, he completed a pass to Shawn Jefferson. The officials ruled it a good catch, although replays showed that Jefferson was out of bounds.

Then, as time expired, he threw a pass into the end zone which fell incomplete. The referee called a penalty against Buffalo, giving the Patriots one more play with no time left. Bledsoe duly completed the

fairytale with a one yard touchdown to Ben Coates, prompting delight on one sideline, protests on the other.

No such excitement in St Louis, where the Atlanta Falcons booked their play-off spot with a 21-10 triumph over the Rams. The Falcons missed their injured quarterback, Chris Chandler, but the running back Jamal Anderson was at his best again, rushing for 183 yards on 31 attempts, including a 27-yard touchdown in the

fourth quarter which sealed the win.

There were no problems for two other post-season aspirants, the New York Jets and the Jacksonville Jaguars. The Jets disposed of the Carolina Panthers 48-21, the running back Curtis Martin scoring twice and gaining 110 yards in total. The quarterback Vinny Testaverde continued to prosper, throwing a pair of touchdowns to the receiver Wayne Chrebet.

Jacksonville negotiated a potentially awkward trip to Cincinnati thanks to their quarterback, Mark Brunell, who threw four scoring passes in the 34-17 triumph.

Elsewhere, the Green Bay Packers saw the return of the running back Dorsay Levens, who missed the last nine games through injury. The Packers' Rich Gannon threw three touchdowns, but despite the 34-24 result, the Chiefs' season has effectively come to its end.

Results and tables, Digest, page 27

## Ayr have European destiny in their hands

AYR SCOTTISH EAGLES are hoping to avoid another bitter European experience as they take aim at history for a second time.

The fate of Jim Lynch's side is still in their own hands as they only need a point from tonight's final divisional game in Mannheim to be assured of a place in the second round.

Defeat in regulation time for Eagles would leave them pinning their dreams on the

## ICE HOCKEY

BY IAN PARKES

Czech side, Litvinov, beating the Russian champions Kazan on the road - an unlikely scenario.

Ayr faced a similar situation two weeks ago when they needed a win in Litvinov to become the first British team to progress to the next phase of such a major European competition.

But after holding a two-goal cushion early in the third period, they eventually lost on penalties to send the four-team group down to the wire.

Despite Ayr's indifferent form in the Sekonda Superleague, Lynch believes his side can take advantage of Mannheim's veteran defence and avenge their 6-3 defeat against the Germans earlier this year.

"All we needed last time out was a win, but we shot ourselves in the foot. We now just need to stay focused," he said.

winning in Germany because although Mannheim are experienced, their defence is old and slow," he said. "Whatever happens we have had a very positive European debut."

The defenceman Jeff Head, meanwhile, knows Eagles cannot afford the mental slip-ups they showed against Litvinov.

"All we needed last time out was a win, but we shot ourselves in the foot. We now just need to stay focused," he said.

## Exhausted O'Sullivan eyes Dublin

### SNOOKER

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN, who failed to defend his UK Championship title in Bournemouth because of physical and mental exhaustion, has withdrawn from next month's German Masters.

The Essex player, 23 next Saturday, hopes to make a comeback in the Irish Open starting on 15 December. O'Sullivan was due to play Steve Davis or Alan McManus in his first match of the invitation tournament in Bingen.

Jimmy White, the Masters champion Mark Williams plus three local players including Tony Drago, later this week.

In becoming the UK champion for the first time on Sunday, when he claimed the £75,000 first prize to take his earnings past the £1.5m mark with a 10-6

victory over Stevens, Higgins is only the third player after Steve Davis and Hendry to hold World and UK titles plus the world No 1 spot in the same year.

## Fareham fall foul of Dodds and Co

### HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

FAREHAM, THE South Premier leaders, had their colours lowered for the first time this season when they lost their maximum points record at Beckenham in a thrilling game.

In a devastating opening spell, Beckenham went three goals up. A sensational fourth-minute goal from Simon Hughes paved the way: collecting the ball outside the 25-yard area, he drove powerfully into the Fareham circle and let fly a screamer into the roof of the net.

Michael Dodds cashed in with a couple of goals and shell-shocked Fareham were struggling. Picking themselves up, they took the game to Beckenham but were let down by a woeful penalty-corner drill. It was not until their 15th penalty corner that Jim Moseley scored a consolation.

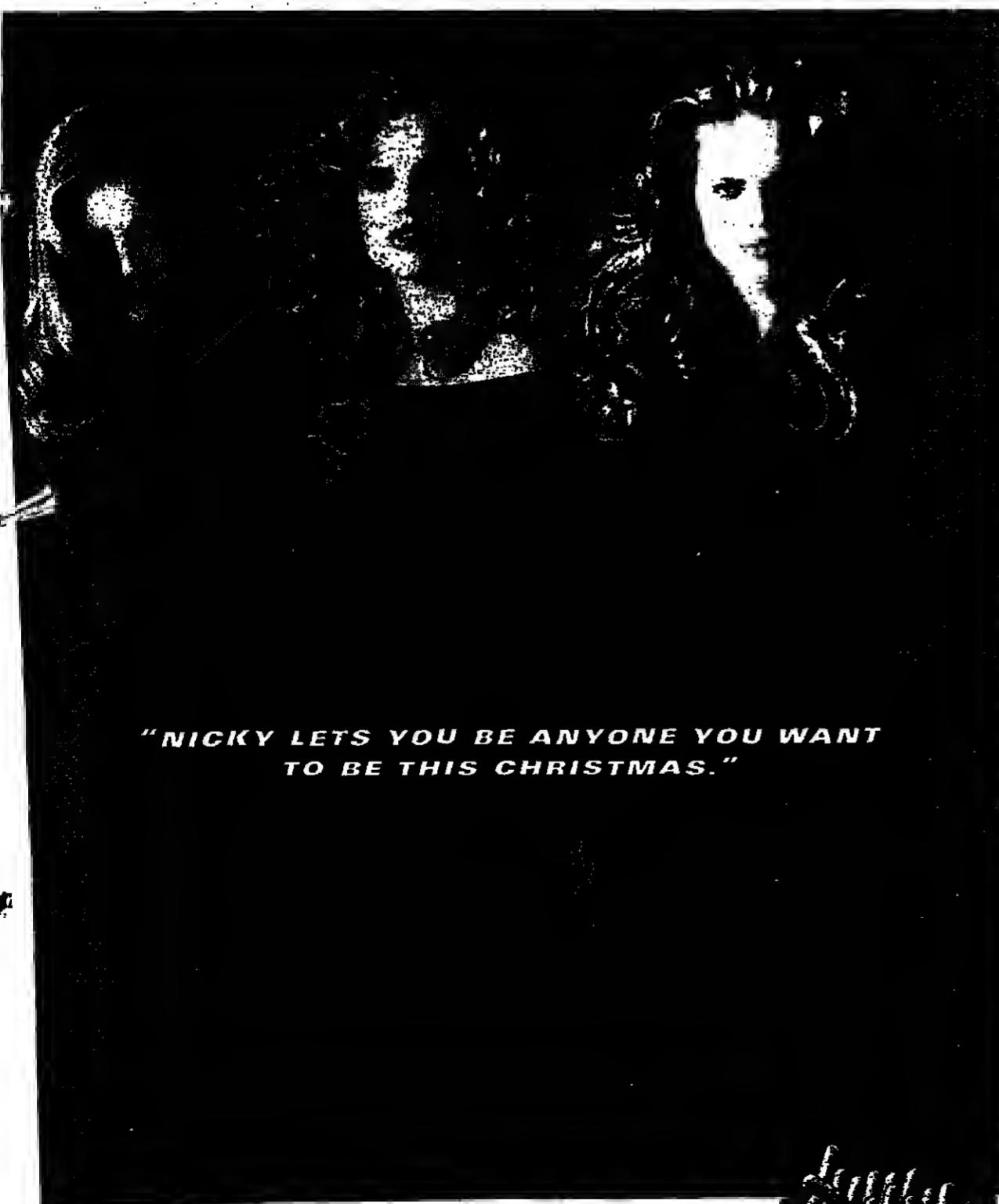
Despite not winning a single corner, Beckenham are now in second place having closed the gap to Fareham to three points with a game in hand. Wincanton moved into third with a 2-0 win against Herne Bay, James Wakely scoring twice.

Cambridge University, held to a 3-3 draw by Crostyx, also lost their 100 per cent record, in the Premier Holidays East Premier. In the North, Sheffield Bankers took over the leadership on goal difference from Formby. Edgbaston, in spite of only drawing with Coventry & North Warwick, held their place at the top in the DTZ Midlands Premier.

## TODAY'S NUMBER

53m

The amount in dollars (£33.1m) which baseball pitcher Randy Johnson will earn over the next four years after signing a deal with Arizona Diamondbacks.



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## WIN AN EVENING WITH SOME OF YOUR SPORTING HEROES AND A TRIP TO THE SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPIC GAMES.



The Independent and the Australian Tourist Commission have teamed up to offer one lucky reader and a friend or partner the chance not only to dine with some of Britain's most famous sporting heroes at the Sports Writers Association Annual Dinner at the London Hilton on Monday 14th December, but also the opportunity to fly to Sydney and visit the 2000 Olympic Games.

The 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney are set to generate unprecedented levels of interest. More than anything, Australians are famous for their obsession with sport. The continent has established its reputation as a leading sporting nation and is host to some of the world's most prestigious sporting events. So there's never been a better time to head Down Under and discover what Australia has to offer. Sportsworld, the British Olympic Association's appointed tour operator, has provided the winner with six nights' accommodation in a twin room and two event tickets. Sportsworld has a comprehensive range of programmes from fully inclusive packages to flight and ticket options. Call Sportsworld for full package details.

Qantas Airways is providing two return tickets to Sydney. Qantas is Australia's international airline and has, for nearly 80 years, been at the forefront of providing new and better ways to take you safely and comfortably to your destination. Qantas flies twice daily to Australia and serves all seven international gateways.

The Independent have selected 6 sporting personalities from those previously honoured over the past 50 years - all you have to do is to vote for one of the athletes who in your opinion has contributed the most to their sport. Phone the number opposite the name listed below and tell us on the line the reason for your selection and leave your name, full address and a daytime telephone number. You could be the lucky winner who receives a pair of tickets to the Sports Writers Association Dinner and your trip to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

### The Independent selections are as follows:

- 1) SIR BOBBY CHARLTON: Key member of England's 1966 World Cup-winning team who has become a great sports ambassador. 0901 477 7331
- 2) LINFORD CHRISTIE: Britain's greatest ever sprinter. He won world, European and Olympic titles. 0901 477 7332
- 3) SEBASTIAN COE: Record-breaking middle-distance runner who won gold at 1980 and 1984 Olympics. 0901 477 7333
- 4) MARY RAND: Won gold in the long jump, silver in the pentathlon and bronze in the relay in the Tokyo Olympics of 1964. 0901 477 7334
- 5) STEVE REDGRAVE: Has won 4 Olympic rowing gold medals. Who would bet against number five in Sydney. 0901 477 7335
- 6) VIRGINIA WADE: Won Wimbledon in the Queen's Silver Jubilee year 1977 to take a place in tennis folklore. 0901 477 7336

**Terms and Conditions.**  
1) Calls cost 60p per minute and should last no longer than two minutes. 2) Winners will be picked at random after the line closes at midnight on Sunday 5 December 1998. 3) Tickets are not transferable. 4) Prizes are on cash alternative. 5) Normal independent rules apply. 6) The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be accepted. 7) Open to residents of the UK, Republic of Ireland and the Channel Islands, excluding employees of Independent Newspapers, Qantas Airways or Sportsworld Group PLC, their families, their agencies or any other company directly connected with the administration of this competition. 8) On entering this competition, contestants are deemed to have accepted and agreed to be bound by the competition rules. Entry instructions form part of these rules. 9) The prize consists of a six night stay in a double room at the London Hilton on 14th December 1998, plus a return flight to Sydney. 10) The prize does not include travel, meals or any other expenses. 11) The whole journey from London to Sydney is not included in the prize. 12) All expenses are subject to availability. Once booked no changes to be made without the consent of Qantas and without payment of the relevant charge. 13) Outbound flights must be taken during September 2000 inclusive. 14) Flights are subject to Qantas's Terms and Conditions of carriage and availability. 15) Exact travel date, accommodation and event tickets to be subject to final agreement between Sportsworld and prize winners.

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# McCoy has eyes on Bleu

THE M4 could be a road to avoid this Saturday what with horseboxes from Lambourn taking runners to Sandown and Chepstow, and confused racegoers driving backwards and forwards as they try to decide where to spend the afternoon.

Both the Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown and the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow have attracted horses who may well be champions when the Festival concludes at Cheltenham in March, and the two courses could argue for the rest of the week about which race promises to be the better.

At Sandown, the former two-mile champion Klarion Davis is expected to face Lake Kariba, Edredon Bleu and the first two home in last season's Arkle Trophy - Or Royal and Hill Society - who were separated by the width of a toothpick in one of the best finishes of the Festival. If any or all of them line up for the next Queen Mother Champion Chase, they will out with the outsiders.

On bare form at least, Lake Kariba might be expected to start as favourite on Saturday, since he beat Edredon Bleu with some comfort in the Hail-

BY GREG WOOD

don Chase at Exeter last month. Edredon Bleu improved significantly for that race, though, and came home 14 lengths clear of a strong field in the Peterborough Chase at Huntingdon 10 days ago. That, along with a record of consistent improvement last season which culminated in success in the Grand Annual Chase at the Festival, has persuaded Ladbrokes to install Henrietta Knight's runner at the head of their Tingle Creek market, at odds of just 2-1.

The price is a compliment to a horse who was simply a useful handicapper less than 12 months ago, but then there is also the McCoy factor to consider. The champion jockey spent yesterday at the British Racing School in Newmarket, reviewing advice on his whip action in an attempt to avoid a repeat of the riding ban which has kept him off the track for most of the last fortnight.

Saturday will be McCoy's first day back from his British ban, and there could be no better way to announce his return than victory in a Grade One

chase. In theory, he has the choice of at least four possible runners, but it would be a surprise were he to choose anything other than Edredon Bleu. The next in the market is Lake Kariba, to be ridden by Timmy Murphy, at 11-4, while Hill Society, Paul Carberry's ride, is a 9-2 chance. Direct Route is 8-1, while Klarion Davis, the 1996 two-mile champion, is 9-1.

Another significant ride for McCoy will be Blowing Wind, who was the early favourite yesterday in the sponsors' book on the William Hill Handicap Hurdle. Nomadic, who was beaten by Istabraq at Fairyhouse on Sunday, is next in the betting.

At Chepstow, meanwhile,

See More Business will attempt to win the Rehearsal Chase for the second year in succession. Sun Bay, the top-rated chaser in Britain after his recent win in the Edward Hammer Chase, are among his possible opponents, although Sun Bay is also entered in the Tommy Whittle Chase the following week. None the less, the latest weekend of the jumping season will be one which only the weather could spoil.



Reach For The Clouds stretches his lead with a fine leap at Folkestone yesterday, eventually winning at odds of 3-1

Peter Jay

## NEWCASTLE

HYPERION

12.25 Dee Pee Tee Cee 2.25 Cottetown Boy  
12.55 NOSHINANNIKIN (nap) 2.55 Minister Glory (nb)  
1.25 Ardant Scout 3.25 Red Ark

GOING: Good to soft (soft in places). Left-footed, with a cutting out run, run-on tough, galloping track. Course on A1 8m N of town. Metro service to Four Lane Ends station from Newcastle railway station. Bus service from there. ADMITTION: Clb £14 (20p for QAPs and registered disabled); Battersby £7 (4p for QAPs and registered disabled); Silver Ring £4 (2p for QAPs and registered disabled). CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M. Reveyday 43 winners from 381 runners (success rate 11.7%). J. Howard Johnson 12-13 (101%), D. B. Storey 14-15 (234%). P. Carberry 10-11 (17.4%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A. Niven 10-11 (35% (success rate 30.2%); R. Ganley 10-11 (19.1%); A. Dobbin 15-16 (103%); B. Storey 14-15 (101%); P. Carberry 12-13 (22.5%).

FAVOURITES: 146 wins in 333 races (43.8%).

BLUNKEROO FIRST TIME: Three Lakes (voted, 325).

12.25 TOMMY O'CONNOR NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 2ft Penalty Value £2.379

1 TESSAJOE (21) (Perry Partnership) Miss J. Carrasco 6 11.5 ... R Ganley  
2 BURNING CLASS (P35) (Mcdermott Partnership) Mrs A. Sartori 4 12 J. Supple  
3 CALIBRE LINE (F177) (M. J. McCormick) Mr M. McCormick 10 12 ... C. McCormick

4 62 CLASSIC BLUES (11) (Harrington Partnership) T. Carr 10 12 ... P. Niven

5 3 DE PEE TEE CEE (17) (M. E. M. Curnell) M. W. Eastby 10 12 ... P. Ganley

6 C20-3 DESERT CAT (F41) (Gordon Brown/Bert Watson) 8 10 12 ... K. O'Brien

7 10-11 DEX COUNTRY (F22) (Savvy Partnership) Mrs A. Naughton 9 12 ... I. Foster

8 10-11 KOPD GENERAL ACADEMY (27) (M. E. M. Curnell) J. Curtis 10 12 ... E. Callahan

9 10 HIGH PYRENEES (F00) (J. Supple) Mrs L. Murphy 6 10 12 ... C. O'Dwyer

10 11-12 LOND LAMB (F42) (A. Sharpen & R. Morris) M. W. Eastby 6 10 12 ... P. Niven

11 12-13 NORTHERN ACCORD (F10) (Harrington Partnership) Mr A. Dempsey 10 12 ... P. Ganley

12 13-14 OTTERBURN LAD (29) (R. Naggs) Mrs J. S. Brown 5 10 12 ... D. Bentley

13 14-15 THE ROUNDLINGS (20) (Lorraine Luttrell) M. Mullane 10 12 ... G. Lyons

14 15-16 ALBRECK (16) (V. J. Hatch) Lawrence G. 10 12 ... J. Conner

15 16-17 EAT YOUR PEAR (29) (Peter Brown/Brown R. Bascombe) 10 12 ... H. Bascombe

16 17-18 HOLDNESS GIRL (17) (J. Morris) L. Lloyd-Jones 5 10 7 ... M. H. Naughton

17 18-19 NAMPAARI (F44) (P. Friend) H. Hartman 4 10 11 ... J. Wynn

18 19-20 SHES ALL HEART (16) (G. Friend) L. L. L. L. 10 11 ... J. Wynn

19 20-21 100% (10) (G. Friend) L. L. L. 10 11 ... J. Wynn

BETTING: 7-4 Noshinannikin, 4-1 Tessajoe, 9-2 Klarion, 7-1 Akringay Venture, 8-1 Blunkeroo, 12-1 Daffin, 14-1 Red Ark, 25-1 others.

1997: Meany abandoned because of snow and frost.

### FORM GUIDE

Tessajoe: Useful middle-distance flat handicapper. Jumped well to beat Classical Blues in a length on Sedgemoor 10m 19 hurdles debut. Open to improvement but more to do.

Burning Class: Useful mile handicapper at best on the flat, but drew a blank last term and often looked listless. Hurdles debut.

Certify Scout: Group three placed for John Oxo in Ireland as a juvenile but drew a blank in three outings up to 21 last term for new handler. Hurdles debut.

Classic Blues: Had Friday's Newbury winner Bramble Chaser 14 lengths behind when 11 lengths 2nd at 7 to Farvels Prince at Wetherby (2m no hole). Jumps well, open to improvement and could be a good bet.

De Pree Tee Cee: Same winner on the flat at three but drew a blank last term. Fair debut when staying on 7 lengths 2nd of 11 to Ahroydycubby at Market Rasen (2m 11 nov hole) and should improve.

De Offle: Placed in 4 out of 5 outings on minor circuit in Ireland. Needs to improve on 25 lengths 3rd of 3 to The Wicketmaker at Sedgemoor (2m 9 nov hole).

Desert Cat: Muzziburg 7-1 handicapper in September. Hurdles debut.

Dex Country: Three placed on John Oxo in Ireland as a juvenile but drew a blank in three outings up to 21 last term for new handler. Hurdles debut.

High Pyrenees: Av made winner on Flat in 1995. Disappearing since and skinned since 8 lengths 8th of 9 to Tessajoe on Flat (9m 11 nov hole) in January.

Lord Lamb: Bumper winner and useful Flat stayer, scoring at Haydock (1m 6f). Relocated lame when 11th in Cesarwain. Built for jumping and interesting recruit.

Northern Accord: Winner twice to 1m 2f for Lymedales last term. Signs of ability on sole 1m 6f in 12 months ago, finishing 33 lengths 6th of 16 to Virtuous at Uttoxeter (2m 9 nov hole).

Otherburn Lad: Well beaten in two bumper starts. Hurdles debut.

The Roundabouts: Signs of ability in week company at Ludlow and Perth last term but failed on last start and plenty to do.

Allerbeck: Little sign of ability in 9 outings. 200-1 and won last off when pulled up 4 out in race won by Cope With Reality at Ayr 2m 11 nov hole.

Eat Your Pear: Flat-class maiden on Flat. Some late headway when 15 lengths 8th of 12 to Cope With Reality at Ayr 2m 11 nov hole.

Holdness Girl: Signs of ability in bumper. May be a hurdler.

Nampari Boy: Pedigree-class sprinter on Flat two seasons ago. Jumps debut.

She's All Heart: Little sign of ability so far and jumped moderately when beaten distance behind Hardman at Hereford (2m nov hole).

Verdict: May Reveyday's smart Flat stayer Lord Lamb is the interesting candidate, but long-distance horses have sketchy record over bumper, particularly at the minimum trip. There could be more value in CLASSIC BLUES, who progressed from his first outing with a useful second at Wetherby and had the Reveyday stable jockey, Peter Reveyday. Tessajoe looks the pick of the remainder.

1.25 COME RACING ON BOXING DAY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 110yds

1 405-15 BLADE OF FORTUNE (19) (C) Giverny 6 10 ... M. S. Strong 7

2 355-20 ADVANCE EAST (27) (D) C Pogson 6 10 12 ... R. Farrant

3 360-5 HOUSE CAPTAIN (12) (C) (S) Mrs G. McGehee 6 10 12 ... J. Ganley

4 411-2 CASTLETON COUNTY (27) (D) Abbott Safford Castle Park M. W. Eastby 6 10 12 ... P. Ganley

5 426-2 INTO THE BLACK (27) (D) J. Hinchliffe 6 10 12 ... P. Ganley

6 431-8 IRISH SPRIT (28) (D) Mrs A. Thompson J. Cheal 6 10 12 ... R. McGrath

7 400-2 NOTOBIG (28) (D) John Wade J. Wade 6 10 12 ... A. Smith

8 507-5 POF'S SEABIG (6) (B) Mrs N. Mason 6 10 12 ... K. Johnson

9 525-7 THE OTHER MAN (22) (D) (S) Mrs G. Pogson 6 10 12 ... P. Powell

10 532-3 SOL MUSC (21) (D) (S) K. J. King 6 10 12 ... T. Tizzard

11 423-2 SPARKLING BUCK (19) (P) Mrs A. Thompson 6 10 12 ... J. P. P. Piggott

12 411-11 STYLICIDE (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

13 422-10 TOTUS TIP (27) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

14 423-11 VENUS (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

15 424-12 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

16 425-13 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

17 426-14 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

18 427-15 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

19 428-16 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

20 429-17 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

21 430-18 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

22 431-19 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

23 432-20 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

24 433-21 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

25 434-22 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

26 435-23 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

27 436-24 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

28 437-25 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

29 438-26 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

30 439-27 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

31 440-28 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

32 441-29 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

33 442-30 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

34 443-31 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

35 444-32 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

36 445-33 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10 12 ... J. Wynn

37 446-34 WINDY BOY (21) (D) Mrs J. S. Brown 6 10

# England lack the will to succeed

ENGLAND CLEARLY had the best of two of the first three days of the series in Brisbane and, to all outward appearances, have thereafter been swamped.

The batting has been worse than the bowling, as has often been the case in Australia. But the fielding and catching – oh dear! It may seem strange to say that if England had held all their catches, they would have had a chance of winning both matches. A total of 10 have been missed in these first two Tests and, if they had been caught, it would have meant a big turnaround.

Three went down on the first day at the Gabba. The first, from Michael Slater to a diving Nasser Hussain at second slip, was not expensive. Australia had reached 178 for 5 when Ian Healy joined Steve Waugh and both should have been out before the close of play that evening.

Healy, when he had made 36 on his way to 134, heaved at Darren Gough and was dropped at third man by Angus Fraser and, just before the close, Waugh, who had made 68 and finished with 12, played back to Gough and Hussain, going again to his right at second slip, dropped the catch. If those two had been held, Australia would have been about 230 for 7, even less, that night. With the new ball only eight overs old, the last three wickets would surely not have been too much of a problem the next morning.

England's first-innings total of 375 could have given them the lead and the mood would have been entirely different when Australia began their hectic second innings. The importance of those two

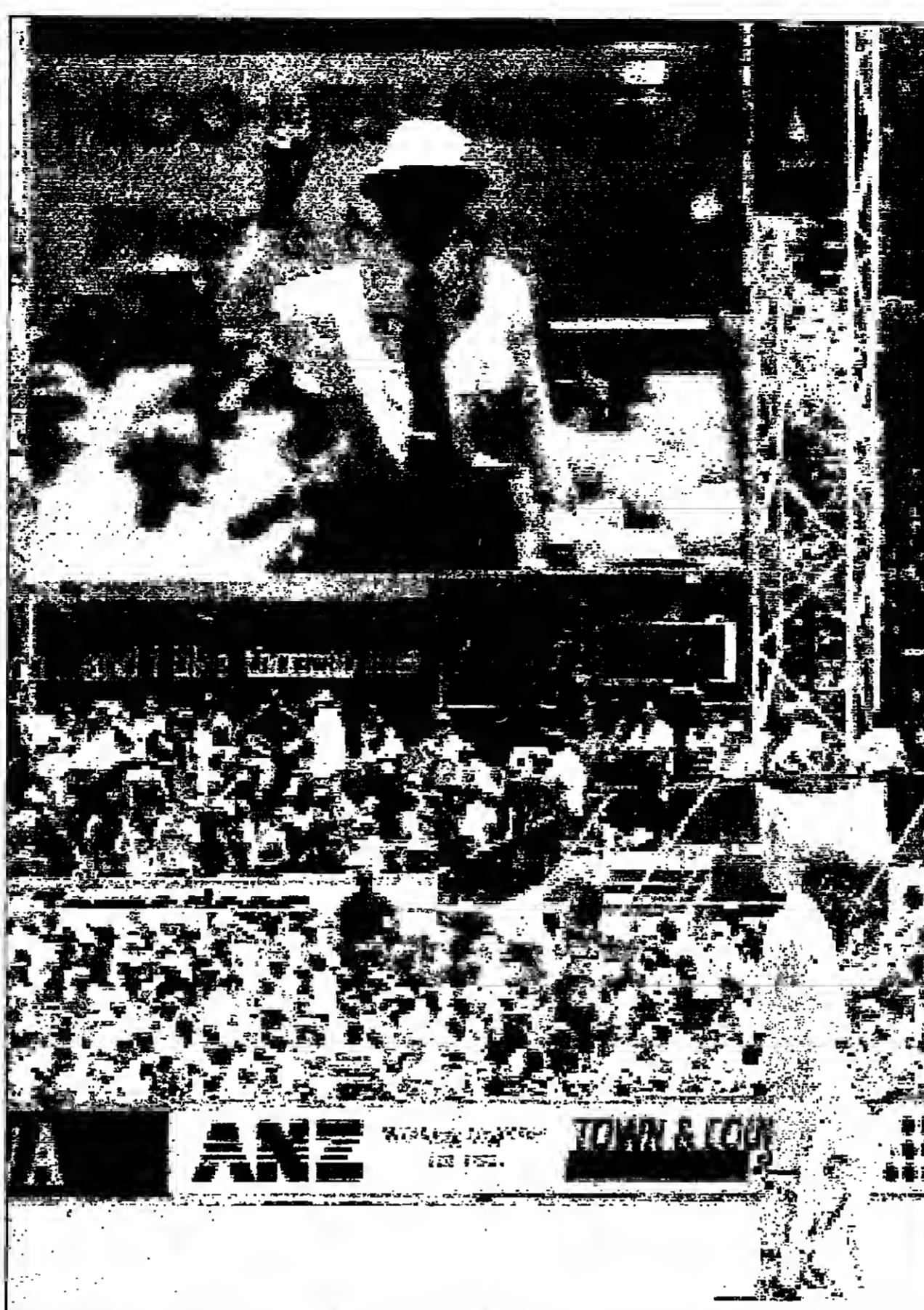
HENRY BLOFELD  
IN PERTH

dropped catches becomes ineradicably clear.

We moved on to Perth. England's poor and dispirited batting on the first day has been universally blamed for losing the match, but what if all the catches had stuck? In Australia's first innings, no less than six were put down.

Slater, who made 34, was dropped by Ben Hollioake, on as substitute, in the gully when he was 15. He had scored 10 more when he drove at Alex Tudor and Graeme Hick, at second slip, palmed the ball over the bar. When Mark Taylor, who made 61, had reached 38, he drove at Gough and Hick dropped a straightforward one at second slip at knee height.

On the second morning, Steve Waugh, who was 11 at the time, on the way to 33, cut Alan Mullally only just over Mark Butcher's head at third slip. Later, when he was 20, he drove Gough to Mullally at wide mid off and he missed another straightforward one. At the end, Ricky Ponting, who was nine at the time, cut Tudor into and out of Gough's hands at fine leg, although he only made three more.



The long walk: A dejected Darren Gough trots off as the big screen shows his lbw verdict Ben Curtis/PA

Of course, the effect of these drops cannot be calculated just by adding up the runs scored by each batsman after they had been missed. If the catches had been held, there would have been a knock-on effect as the pattern of the whole innings would have been different.

Australia would almost cer-

tainly still have had a first-innings lead but a much smaller one and a target of 150 or so in the fourth innings could have been a nasty proposition for them. As it was, they lost their first three batsmen for 63, chasing only 64, and even then, Mullally had dropped an easy return catch from Slater.

Unremitting hard work in practice is surely the only cure, although it makes one wonder if all the coaches adopt the right routine in practice. To cure faults are what coaches are for and, if this epidemic continues, one can only ask if they are doing their job properly.

It cannot just be down to the

greater fallibility of Anglo-Saxons because most, if not all, the Australians are shoots off the same original root. I suspect it has quite a lot to do with mental toughness, determination and will to succeed – in fact, with the whole approach to the job – and it is the Australians who point the way here.

# Slowly does it as S Africa take revenge

IT TOOK them almost four and a half tense hours and 624 overs, but South Africa's batsmen diligently accumulated the modest 164 runs they needed to beat the West Indies in the first Test at the Wanderers five minutes before tea yesterday.

The result erased the memory of their loss in their only previous Test in Barbados in March, 1992, when their last eight wickets tumbled for 28 on the final day, and it earned them an early advantage in the series, the first between the teams in South Africa.

Setting out on their half-day, South Africa needed nerves of steel and perfect judgement to overcome the threat of Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh on a difficult last day pitch. Their potential problems materialised within the first 40 minutes with the wickets of Gary Kirsten, caught by the keeper of Ambrose, and Adam Bacher, taken off the side edge of Walsh.

Ambrose and Walsh had been the destroyers in Barbados and, nearly seven years on and with no signs of declining effectiveness, they applied such early pressure that Walsh conceded a mere eight runs from his opening spell of six overs, Ambrose 14 from his 10.

Once they were rested, Jacques Kallis, technically correct and temperamentally cool, held the effort together for three hours and 50 minutes to be unbeaten on 57 when victory was achieved, his second half-century of a low-scoring match.

Kallis shared successive match-winning partnerships of 44 with Daryl Cullinan and 66 with his captain Hansie Cronje, both of whom provided the necessary impetus to the effort.

"In Bridgetown, we were not Test cricket and we made mistakes," Crooje, along with the fast bowler Allan Donald, the sole survivor of that experience, said afterwards. "We weren't positive enough to that

BY TONY COZIER  
in Johannesburg

West Indies 261 and 170  
South Africa 268 and 164-6  
S Africa win by four wickets

final day. Now, 50 Tests or so down the line, we're used to it."

Coming in at 14 for 2, Cullinan seized on every scoring opportunity and rode whatever luck was going to score 35 of 64 balls before Stuart Williams miraculously plucked his fierce pull of Nixon McLean out of the air at midwicket.

It was then 58 for 3 and it needed the positive influence of Cronje to counteract the run-choking field-placing of his rival captain, Brian Lara. Caught at silly mid-on off an Ambrose no-ball at 96 for 3, when 17, he eventually fell to a top-edged hook to fine-leg off Walsh for 31.

By then, while a famous victory was only 40 runs away, the storm clouds that had broken around tea on each of the previous two days were banking up and Cronje set his team a 4pm deadline to complete the job.

As it was, the rain did not materialise and even though Ambrose had Jonty Rhodes caught behind and Ambrose's full toss was flicked by Shaun Pollock hard but straight to square-leg with the scores level, Kallis remained steadfast until Mark Boucher cut Ambrose square to win the match.

First day: West Indies won loss  
WEST INDIES – First Innings 261 (S Chanderpaul 79)  
SOUTH AFRICA – First Innings 268 (G Kirsten 62, C A Walsh 4-65)

WEST INDIES – Second Innings 170 (S

SOUTH AFRICA – Second Innings  
G Kirsten 4, Jacobs b Ambrose ..... 7  
A M Bacher & Wallace b Walsh ..... 6  
J H Kallis not out ..... 57  
D Cullinan & Williams b McLean ..... 35  
W Cronje & Boucher b Ambrose ..... 31  
J N Rhodes & Jacobs b Walsh ..... 9  
S M Pollock & Chanderpaul b Ambrose ..... 1  
J Boucher b Ambrose ..... 1  
Total (for 61) ..... 164  
Fall: 1-14 2-14 3-58 4-124 5-146 6-163.  
Bowling: Ambrose 15 4-3-2-2; Walsh 21-  
4-4-3; Lewis 17-4-5-0; Hooper 4-0-13-  
3; Williams 2-0-0-0; Williams 2-0-0-0  
Umpires: C J Mathews and D F Shepherd  
Second test: Port Elizabeth, 10-14 Dec.  
Third test: Durban, 26-30 Dec.  
Fourth test: Cape Town, 2-6 Jan  
Final test: Centurion Park, 15-19 Jan

# Aamir declares his displeasure

AAMIR SOHAIL, Pakistan's dejected captain, yesterday turned on the selectors after his side's demoralising seven-wicket defeat by Zimbabwe in the first Test at Peshawar.

Pakistan lost their first home series against Australia for 39 years last month, and Aamir responded to the latest setback by admitting: "It's very demoralising that we have failed against Zimbabwe. The team is really very disappointed."

Questioned on his own future as captain, he said: "It's up to the board, and I am considering my options. We have lost one match, and I will think about it."

"The whole problem is of selection, and we have failed to form a combination. We had a green-top wicket and had two spinners in the squad. We had no options, no variety," he said.

Aamir denied some senior players are not co-operating with him, saying: "This is not correct, because if they do badly their head is also on the chopping block. I am helpless at the moment and play with whatever I am given. I will not back down from responsibility, but now they will have to listen to me," he said of the selection committee.

BY BRIAN MCKENNA  
in Peshawar

Pakistan 296 and 103  
Zimbabwe 238 and 162-3  
Zimbabwe win by seven wickets

Zimbabwe recorded their first Test victory overseas and their third win in 32 Tests by making 162 for 3 in the second innings, triumphing with a day and two full sessions to spare.

Murray Goodwin scored a patient, unbeaten 73 to see Zimbabwe home after Paldstian had collapsed to 103 all out in their second innings.

The second Test in the three-match series begins in Lahore on 10 December.

Fourth day: Zimbabwe won loss

Pakistan – First Innings 239 (Iz Armand 75, H Iftikhar 53, M Mian 24-2-100)

Zimbabwe – First Innings 238 (G C John 70, T. M. Aslam 5-52, Waqar Younis 4-78)

Pakistan – Second Innings 103 (H K Okon 4-42, M Mian 2-3-2)

Zimbabwe – Second Innings 120 (G Naseem 70 for 11)

G W Flower & Mom Khan b Vazir ..... 31  
M W Goodwin not out ..... 73  
"A" P Ramphal, J M Armand b Aslam ..... 12  
"B" P Farouq, T. M. Aslam b Naseem ..... 17  
Extras (4s, 6s, 2s, nrs) ..... 23  
Total (for 3, 48.2 overs) ..... 162  
Fall (out): 2-94, 3-131

Deciding: T. M. Aslam, H. H. Saeed, M. Mian, G. N. Naseem, A. R. Whitelock, N. Khan, S. Bawali, N. S. Khan, 2-Up In Peshawar, 12-2 Up In Peshawar, 13-2 Up In Peshawar, 14-1 Up In Peshawar, 15-1 Up In Peshawar, 16-1 Up In Peshawar, 17-1 Up In Peshawar, 18-1 Up In Peshawar, 19-1 Up In Peshawar, 20-1 Up In Peshawar, 21-1 Up In Peshawar, 22-1 Up In Peshawar, 23-1 Up In Peshawar, 24-1 Up In Peshawar, 25-1 Up In Peshawar, 26-1 Up In Peshawar, 27-1 Up In Peshawar, 28-1 Up In Peshawar, 29-1 Up In Peshawar, 30-1 Up In Peshawar, 31-1 Up In Peshawar, 32-1 Up In Peshawar, 33-1 Up In Peshawar, 34-1 Up In Peshawar, 35-1 Up In Peshawar, 36-1 Up In Peshawar, 37-1 Up In Peshawar, 38-1 Up In Peshawar, 39-1 Up In Peshawar, 40-1 Up In Peshawar, 41-1 Up In Peshawar, 42-1 Up In Peshawar, 43-1 Up In Peshawar, 44-1 Up In Peshawar, 45-1 Up In Peshawar, 46-1 Up In Peshawar, 47-1 Up In Peshawar, 48-1 Up In Peshawar, 49-1 Up In Peshawar, 50-1 Up In Peshawar, 51-1 Up In Peshawar, 52-1 Up In Peshawar, 53-1 Up In Peshawar, 54-1 Up In Peshawar, 55-1 Up In Peshawar, 56-1 Up In Peshawar, 57-1 Up In Peshawar, 58-1 Up In 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# SPORT

SPRINGBOKS PUMPED UP FOR ENGLAND P27 • HUDSON THE WALKING MIRACLE P26

Second Test: Australia take advantage of tourists' inferiority complex to claim victory and go one up in Ashes series

## England batsmen take the blame

BY DEREK PRINGLE  
in Perth

England 112 & 191  
Australia 240 & 64-3  
Australia win by 7 wkt

THE DEFEAT that England have dived with ever since their arrival in Australia finally materialised and they leave Perth chasing a familiar one-nil deficit. If losing to Australia by seven wickets inside three days is a humiliation most would choose to avoid, it could have been much worse and the freak storm that saved them in Brisbane has at least kept this Ashes series from turning to dust by the third Test.

As England's captain Alec Stewart candidly admitted, it is a position England have been in before. But if coming back against South Africa was a remarkable effort last summer doing the same to Australia at home, will depend on the amount of psychological damage the defeat has inflicted on the batsmen.

Indeed, with only Graeme Hick playing in place of the injured Graham Thorpe, able to dominate, the inferiority complex now taking hold will become increasingly difficult to shift. Now that the series is heading back east, Australia's confidence will move into overdrive.

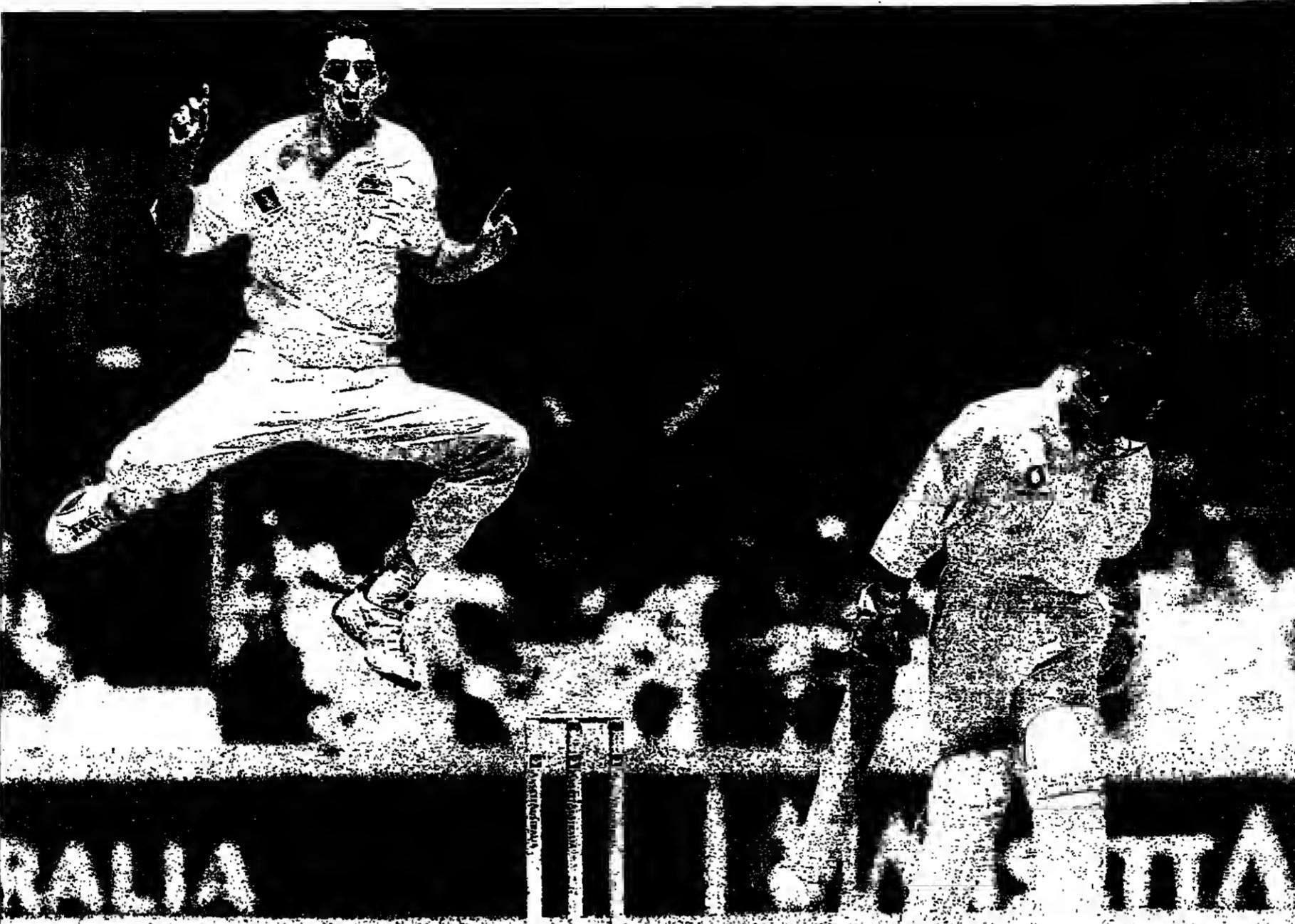
"I always felt that Brisbane and Perth were the venues that might suit England's bowlers best, so I'm delighted to be one-nil up," Mark Taylor said. "As for any psychological advantage, that's been built up over 10 years of cricket."

In fact, the WACA pitch did suit England's bowlers who were every bit as competitive on the bouncy speedway as their opponents. Alex Tudor impressed with his pace and accuracy and taking 4 for 89 against Australia represents a fine debut.

Where the main differences lie, however, is in batting technique and catching, two areas Australia have long excelled at. There is nothing more disheartening for a bowling side to create chances and fluff them. Ignoring the crucial misses in Brisbane, England spilled eight chances, a sloppy display in stark contrast to Australia's, where 13 were caught and only one dropped.

The batting was even worse. Judging by the way many batsmen were reticent about getting into line, the pre-match propaganda about the pitch clearly worked. When players did cover their off-stump they invariably did so with half a bat, playing at deliveries most of the Aussies chose to leave alone.

"We were guilty of playing at too



Australia's fast bowler Jason Gillespie cannot hide his delight after trapping England's Darren Gough lbw for a first-ball duck in Perth yesterday. Allsport

many balls outside off-stump," agreed Stewart. "They let balls go that pass over the stumps. Because of the type of pitches we play on back home, we don't leave the ball as well as they do."

Surely one of the reasons England did not send their strongest one-day side to Bangladesh was so the Test players involved could play against Western Australia and get a taster of the unique WACA pitch. If they did, it turned pretty sour.

As it turned out the toss was an important factor, but Taylor's decision to bowl first - something Stew-

art admitted he would not have done - was in the face of advice from the three Western Australians involved with the side.

Until recently the pitch at the WACA has tended to crack up, making batting last a virtually impossible task. But this one has been laid and as there was no evidence of cracks, Taylor did not feel that batting last represented as much a problem as perhaps batting first when the grass was fresh.

Yet if some sideways movement made things difficult on the first day there was nothing untoward on

days two and three. By then England needed a miracle and although Hick threatened with a savage 68, Australia, despite losing three wickets chasing the 64 runs needed to win, were always in charge.

Hick, who is staying with the party and will be considered for the next Test, added 26 runs to his overnight score before he became the first of Jason Gillespie's five victims. On Sunday, Hick had humiliated Gillespie, who conceded 69 runs from nine overs. But if there were plenty of bowlers who would have blanched at having the ball put

in their hands so soon, Gillespie relished the challenge.

The approach brought reward too and once Hick had gone, edging the fast bowler to third slip, he blew away England's tail with four wickets in six balls. For the second time in two Tests Mark Ramprakash was left unbroken, this time on 47.

It isn't often a Test match is over before tea on the third day but the rift between the batting and the bowling of both sides on this fast, bouncy Perth pitch, helped to accelerate the match.

Yet if losing to Australia has be-

come something of a habit over the last decade, the timing of this particular defeat is appropriate. Over the next two days, the First Class Forum (the 18 counties plus MCC) is meeting to decide the format for the English county game will take in the next millennium.

If ever there was a wake-up call for change, England's poor showing in this match was it and once again their technique and temperament were shown to be suspect under pressure.

To say that county cricket is flawed, is like "stating the bleedin'

obvious," and doubters need look no further than the case of John Crawley, whose batting in this match illustrates why domestic cricket is a poor breeding ground for Test cricketers.

Last season, Crawley was Lancashire's best batsman, scoring 1,395 first-class runs at an average of 69.75. Against Australia's pace men in Perth, he was made to look a novice as they probed his weakness outside off-stump. It is quite obvious that the bowlers face day in and day out at home are not good enough to consistently expose it and he has been allowed to flourish without having to eradicate this glaring flaw.

He is not the only one who would benefit from more rigorous domestic competition. But if a two-divisional Championship is now more likely than it was a year ago, it will still not go far enough and what is needed is a format that concentrates the cream of the talent in five or six teams and allows it to rise to the top. Until that happens, Australia will remain an occasional conquer.

### SCOREBOARD

Third day: Australia vs England	
ENGLAND	First Innings 112 (10) Fleming 5-46
AUSTRALIA	First Innings 240 (4) Tudor 4-89
ENGLAND - Second Innings	
M A Butcher c Ponting b Fleming	13 min, 15 balls
M R Atherton c Taylor b Fleming	35
M J Treadwell c Taylor b Fleming	51 min, 33 balls, 5 fours
N Henson bowled by Fleming	15 min, 14 balls
A J Stewart c Taylor b Fleming	8 min, 5 balls
M Rampakalash not out	47
J C Rutherford 180 balls, 3 fours	15
J C Rutherford c Lawton b Miller	64 min, 43 balls
G A Hick c Ponting b Gillespie	40
G A Hick 37 balls, 3 fours, 3 sixes	16
O G Cork bowled by Gillespie	48 min, 37 balls, 1 four
A J Tudor c Hobbs b Gillespie	0
M Rampakalash c Hobbs b Gillespie	0
D Gough bowled by Gillespie	2 min, 1 ball
A J Tudor c Hobbs b Gillespie	7 min, 4 balls
Extras (m8) 8	8
Total 191 (10) 183 (10) 375 (10) 5-191	191
Ball 1-5 (Butcher 2-11) (Henson 3-15) (Fleming 4-40)	
(Atherton 5-57 (Crawley 6-158) (Hick 7-189) (Cork 6-185) (Tudor 9-180) (Gough 10-180) (Rutherford 11-180) (Smyth 12-180) (Smyth 13-180) (Smyth 14-170) 5-2-13-0, 2-2-4-0; Fleming 19-7-15-5)	
(Hick 11-16-8-2-2-0), (Gough 13-7-3-0-0-0)	
(Tudor 10-4-11-1 (7-2-10-1 3-2-1-0))	
(Miller 10-4-11-1 (7-2-10-1 3-2-1-0))	
ENGLAND - Second Innings	
M A Butcher 38 balls, 2 fours	17
M A Tudor c Hick b Miller	3
J C Rutherford 180 balls, 3 fours	17
M Rampakalash 21 balls	7
M E Waugh not out	17
J C Rutherford 21 balls, 2 fours	15
Extras (m8) 8	8
Total 179 (m8) 42 balls, 1 four, 12-0-1 (Rampakalash 25, G A Hick 42) 47 overs, Third day: 190-231 min, 25.1 overs	190-231 min, 25.1 overs
ENGLAND - Second Innings	
M A Tudor 38 balls, 2 fours	17
M A Tudor c Hick b Miller	3
J C Rutherford 180 balls, 3 fours	17
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AUSTRALIA - Second Innings	
M Rampakalash 38 balls, 2 fours	17
M A Tudor c Hick b Miller	3
J C Rutherford 180 balls, 3 fours	17
M E Waugh not out	17
J C Rutherford 21 balls, 2 fours	15
Extras (m8) 8	8
Total 179 (m8) 42 balls, 1 four, 12-0-1 (Rampakalash 25, G A Hick 42) 47 overs, Third day: 190-231 min, 25.1 overs	190-231 min, 25.1 overs
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M A Tudor c Hick b Miller	3
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M E Waugh not out	17
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## TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

## It's got to go

**Oscar Wilde deserved a monument fit for a hero of art, love and politics.****Instead Maggi Hambling has sculpted a wilfully tacky, silly, Tussaudian tragedy**

BY TOM LUBBOCK

**T**he cause itself was right and good and overdue... There should certainly be a monument to Oscar Wilde in London, the scene of his triumphs and trials and fall. It should be a major monument. We're not talking about some half-cocked tourist-trapping nonsense, like the statue of Charlie Chaplin in Leicester Square. This would be a monument with serious business to do - for us, for London.

It's a kind of test case. Many people doubt whether public sculpture is nowadays capable of doing serious business at all. It's quite hard to imagine what that would even feel like. But consider Wilde's story: It's a big one with big themes. Don't just think of the irresistible personality or the slave of beauty or the glittering dramatist or the sexual dissident and martyr. Think of the destructive *amour fou*, the reckless double life, the noble but evasive court defence, the determination to face disgrace, the broken prisoner.

It's not just a life that's involved. Wilde's story is iconic: he's a hero of art, love, politics, comedy, individualism, conscience. It's on our conscience too. If a piece of grand, emblematic, messy, unfinished history - heroic, tragic, bathetic, shameful - that needs public remembering and honour and reparation. That's a job a public sculpture, just imaginably, might do, and not for Wilde's sake only, but for ours.

Public sculpture, ideally, doesn't merely stand there as outdoor decor or eye-catching curio. It stands for us. It's a form of collective speech and collective action. True, Wilde has his tomb in Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris, one of Epstein's finest, and he now has a memorial in Poets' Corner. But a Wilde monument, permanently visible on London's streets, might have been and done something great. Perhaps something like that was what was originally envisaged. The idea was the late Derek Jarman's. The campaign was taken up by various prominent cultural figures, including Sir Jeremy Isaacs, Dame Judi Dench, Sir Ian McKellen and Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney. Design-proposals were invited from artists. Funds were raised by public subscription, and from various charitable bodies. The project showed a real and proper Victorian public spirit. And if the emi-

nent persons behind it had any sense of the serious work their monument might do... Well, how could they conceivably have entrusted the job to Maggi Hambling?

But that's what they did. And *A Conversation with Oscar Wilde* was unveiled yesterday in Adelaide Street, the pedestrianised area behind St Martin-in-the-Fields, with the state's blessing too. The Culture Secretary was among the notables in attendance. It is a figurative work. It is a plain distaste. As a piece of any-old-street-sculpture, dead silly. In view of the monument it might have been, a tragedy. There are many reasons: whimsy and triviality, to start with.

A polished stone sarcophagus is set on the pavement. Its top surface slopes up at one end, like a sun-lounger. To this slope, a bronze bust of Wilde, plus right hand, are attached - as if the figure was surfacing through the stone, as if Wilde were sitting up out of the tomb. Sitting up, and still talking away. Wilde is caught mid-motion.

Mouth gabbing, hand gesturing with cigarette. And he's talking to us - for the tomb works as a street bench too, where we can sit and enjoy *A Conversation*.

A "playful" piece then: already a very bad conception for a public work. And note that the Wilde memorialised here is only the irrepressible talker, the repartee-animal (plus a touch of the aesthetic look - there's the carnation, patinated light green). We have nothing of the nerve, the folly, the ruin, the glory. We have nothing for history - only the whimsical notion of chatting cheerfully with this anodyne figure.

It's a Tussauds Wilde. Or you might say, it preserves an image of Wilde just as a playboy of a hundred years ago might have liked it preserved. Fantastic wit and charmed, magnificent character - terribly sad about, best not to think about the scandal, the trials, the gaol. And don't tell me it shows Wilde "rising above" his misfor-

tunes. Those misfortunes are the story.

As for that wit, the foot of the tomb is inscribed with a well-known line from *Lady Windermere's Fan*: "We are all in the gutter." And I seem to remember someone brightly suggesting that the thought might particularly appeal to London's homeless, who are often found in this area.

It may well do. Anyone who's read the poetry pages of *The Big Issue* will know that homelessness is no cure for sentimentality. But it remains one of Wilde's stupider remarks. It's stupid because (a) some people really are in the gutter; but we aren't

all, and to pretend we are is sheer self-dramatisation, (b) if we were in the gutter, looking at the stars wouldn't much help - the metaphor is wilfully unimaginative about life in the gutter. What's more, its citation here, as emblematic or quintessential Wilde, is very untrue to Wilde's own experience. When he came to write *De Profundis* from prison he was fully alive to the falsity of this kind of air-headed high-mindedness.

All this is bad enough. But the decisive problem is not the message but the making of the piece. It's wilful tack. The bust and hand aren't solid metal. They materialise from a sort of macaroni tangle of undulating tubey strands. It's a likeness - but why done like this? The head looks silly. The technique does too.

Hambling is mainly a painter, and I guess she may be going here for a sculptural version of one of her painting styles, where the figure is rendered in paint strands and loops, light on a dark ground. On canvas it can create a brisk, evanescent vivacity. But breezy brushstrokes can't be translated into three dimensions so literally I mean, what does it look like? I'll tell you what.

In medieval tomb sculpture there's

something called a transi. You have a two-tier tomb, in which the deceased person is represented twice. On the top tier they lie, dressed, praying or whatever, more or less alive. Underneath they appear again - as a rotting cadaver, the flesh decomposing, riddled with worms. That's the transi. I think *A Conversation with Oscar Wilde* may be one too. Its construction looks distinctly vermicular.

But it can't be. We can't be meant to be chatting away with a wriggling corpse. It can't want to call Wilde worm-eaten. But in the circumstances, the association can't

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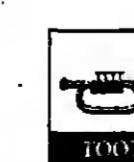
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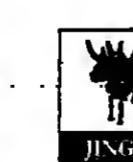
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## Which Europe?

Sir: The letter from the officers of the European Movement (30 November) on the vexed EMU question advances our knowledge or enlightenment not a jot. The same applies to letters from Eurosceptics - the same old arguments from the same sources who have been sounding off for years. Surely the position is this:

The most stupid question one can ask today is: "Are you for or against Europe?" It is like asking: "Are you for or against the Atlantic?" There are just two queries that have to be addressed. The first is: "What kind of Europe?"

For years arguments have raged as to where exactly Europe, in the meaning of the EU, is really heading. Successive leaders have pleaded that we did not know enough and therefore could not decide. Following the multiple statements of last week this question has surely been answered clearly, decisively and finally, as fog disappearing before a stiff breeze. The EU is heading towards a single, highly centralised, fully integrated Federal Republic of Europe. No more talk of a "Europe of Nations" or De Gaulle's old *Union des Parties* please. We now know exactly what is in prospect and it is not going to change, whatever Britain's hopeful suasion.

The second question is therefore: "What in the view of a clear majority of the British people should be our relationship with that Europe over the decades to come?" And here the Rubicon is the abolition of the pound under EMU. Mr Major delayed for five years, Mr Blair wants another five and Mr Hague ten. The choice is clear and there is no need for further delay. It is either full-fledged, no-holds-barred and enthusiastic absorption or a freshly negotiated sovereignty-based trading relationship.

It is not the decision that is causing ravages to our unity and national morale; it is the endless indecisiveness.

FREDERICK FORSYTH  
Hertford

Sir: John Rentoul's article on EU tax harmonisation (28 November) was a useful antidote to some of last week's more extreme attempts to concoct a "hidden agenda" of EU tax rules. But it could usefully have added two points made clear by Commissioner Mario Monti, responsible for all proposals on EU tax matters.

First, far from being the standard-bearers of high tax, the Commission has consistently argued that EU governments should cut the proportion of GDP taken in tax. Fair tax competition benefits the European economy by making it more competitive. If goals can be met without taxes, so much the better. So the size of reducing tax evasion on savings could be met either through a co-ordinated withholding tax, or by exchange of information. The current proposal leaves it to national governments to choose which option they prefer.

Second, the limits of the current debate should be clear. Any suggestion of a common EU income tax is ludicrous. Common action on VAT dates back to 1977, so another look at VAT within the Single Market makes sense, but there should always be some flexibility for EU governments to apply reduced rates to certain goods. Co-ordination to tackle tax evasion and tax breaks acting as hidden state aids means there would be even less reason to look at common rates of corporation tax.

It is quite natural for the 11 EU countries who will be using the euro in one month's time to be thinking hard about how to maximise the effectiveness of a newly strengthened Single Market. The UK government clearly understands this, as shown by Dawn Primarolo's active chairmanship of the current group on the code of conduct on unfair tax competition. This

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Roaring Forties No 2: Crew members arriving for work on the new shift, in the latest of our series of photographs about life on Enterprise Oil's Ne-1 Neville Elder

understanding is not shared by much of the UK media, determined to see this through the prism of the domestic debate on whether or not to join the euro. But their attempts to score points by caricaturing the current debate are unlikely to register much interest in the countries concerned with the serious business of making the euro a success.

GEOFFREY MARTIN  
Head of Representations in the United Kingdom  
The European Commission  
London SW1

## Tyrant on trial

Sir: I have written to the Home Secretary urging him to allow the extradition process in relation to General Pinochet to proceed.

The STUC has a long history of involvement with the cause of democracy in Chile, going back to the period in the aftermath of the 1973 coup when we facilitated the resettlement in Scotland of Chilean refugees, and the Rolls Royce workforce refused to work on jet engines destined for the Chilean air force.

The decision of the House of Lords that Senator Pinochet does not enjoy immunity on the basis of his having been a head of state is highly significant for the way in which legally operates internationally.

There have been calls for General Pinochet to be allowed to return to Chile on compassionate grounds because of his age. I will resist the temptation to refer at length to the thousands who have had no opportunity to grow old because they died on his orders, and restrict myself to the clear argument that compassion, if it is to be exercised, should come at the stage of sentencing, not prior to any trial.

The decision of the House of Lords has given hope and encouragement to the many people, not just in the United Kingdom, who have felt that redress through the rule of law is

exercised only by the powerful against the powerless.

BILL SPEIRS  
General Secretary  
Scottish Trades Union Congress  
Glasgow

Sir: In the wake of the decision of the Law Lords that the Spanish request for extradition of General Pinochet can go forward, a number of Conservative MPs have used various media platforms to draw an analogy between Pinochet and republican and loyalist prisoners in Northern Ireland released early under the Good Friday Agreement. They have tried to construct an argument that deals made as part of wider political settlements should be allowed to stand without the intervention of foreign judges or governments.

They must not get away with this. In terms of no less a fundamental principle than the rule of law itself, it does not stand up to scrutiny. In the case of the Northern Ireland terrorists, though not in that of Pinochet, the law has rightly taken its course.

Sir: Philip Hensher's article about highly able children ("Leave those brainy kids alone", 27 November) would have been applauded by none other than Bernard Shaw. In 1892 he wrote a review of Dame Clara Butt, then a student at the Royal College of Music. "If Miss Butt has sufficient strength of mind to keep her eyes, ears and mind open in the artistic atmosphere of the Royal College, without for a moment allowing herself to be

They did not, unlike Pinochet, grant immunity to themselves. Indeed, unlike Pinochet, they have not been granted immunity at all.

Unlike Pinochet they have all stood trial; unlike Pinochet they have all been convicted; unlike Pinochet, they have all served time and their convictions stand.

It is to be hoped that Jack Straw will not be seduced by such spurious arguments.

MARK RAWSON  
Oxford

Sir: General Pinochet's health (and thus his ability to stand trial) is not an issue which should be decided by the Home Secretary. That would be too early in the judicial process and, if extradition were to be denied on those grounds, would become what everyone remembered about this case. It is better that his ability to stand trial be decided by the Spanish court at the time of his arraignment.

Similarly, it is very important for the development of international law in this area that the UK delivers a "clean" decision based

solely on the legal merits of the case and does not let the waters be muddied by political or trade considerations.

PETER J HOLDEN  
Marlborough, Wiltshire

Sir: The old colonial boys are on the rampage again. The pressure on Chile to condone the extradition of General Pinochet to the colonial power can only rankle among the now free citizens of Latin America. Dr M B J MCGRATH  
Cahir, Co Tipperary, Ireland

## CJD warnings

Sir: Steve Connor's report ("Cystis drug may help to prevent CJD" (26 November)) helpfully publicised the need to discover whether pentosan polysulfate might prevent or arrest the development of CJD in persons already infected.

Are the Department of Health taking notice of this drug due to Dr Stephen Dealer's very noisy methods of goading officialdom? Over the decades, as a scientist, I may have mistakenly chosen to use

quieter, more carefully reasoned methods for suggestions, warnings or criticisms on CJD-related topics - of my several attempts, only my 1976 warning of CJD-contaminated human growth hormone yielded any positive official response.

I do not think that there is a shred of evidence for the assertion by Dr Dealer that the children of those who have died from human BSE are at higher risk of also being infected. Needless distress will result from his statement if such hype needed to provoke official action? Put more generally, do those with a poor "signal-to-noise ratio" tend to become government advisers?

Dr A G DICKINSON  
Lasswade, Midlothian

## Winslet's wedding

Sir: I cannot comment on the other instances mentioned in Emma Cook's smirking article ("How to fix you can go?" (25 November)) but I can speak with some authority about Kate Winslet's wedding. It was as near a normal wedding as someone in Kate's position was

going to be allowed and it was thoroughly genuine. I try to ensure

that each couple marrying in my church do so in the style most appropriate to them, and I am quite clear that we achieved that aim in Jim and Kate's case. If they had wanted opera singers, string quartets, costumes and stage sets we could have accommodated them, and it would have been splendid, but it would not have reflected the people that they are.

I realise that you cannot label a building, but to describe All Saints, Downshire Square, as a "quaint little local church" is almost

actionable as it is a sumptuous

Victorian Gothic basilica which

seats five hundred, as a moment's

research would have told Ms Cook.

West Reading may not be

Knightshridge, but it is possible to

have style outside the capital.

Fr HENRY EVERETT  
Vicar, All Saints, Downshire

Square  
Reading, Berkshire

## Leukaemia children

Sir: The Leukaemia Research Fund has been greatly saddened to learn of the death of Georgina Horlick. Despite all the pressures on her time, Georgina's mother, Nicola, has given selfless and invaluable support to the fundraising efforts of the Leukaemia Research Fund.

It is unfortunate that reports in your paper and in *The Independent* on Sunday have contained errors of fact which may unnecessarily alarm the parents of other children with leukaemia. *The Independent* on Sunday has stated that about 1,200 children a year are diagnosed with leukaemia. Happily the true figure is about 420 cases a year.

More seriously, the impression

is given (report, 30 November) that within the last five years bone-marrow transplants have become the treatment of choice for childhood leukaemia. This is not the case. Some two-thirds to three-quarters of all children with acute leukaemia will have an excellent response to chemotherapy. The relatively more toxic and dangerous bone-marrow transplant approach is reserved for children identified as having high-risk leukaemia or for children, like Georgina, who have relapsed. The article further implies that long-term follow up treatment is a new approach, whereas this was introduced about 30 years ago.

There is little or no evidence to support the assertion that every last leukaemia cell must be destroyed for treatment to be successful. This is the subject of ongoing research but there is historical evidence to suggest that cure is not dependent on a strategy of total annihilation of all leukaemia cells.

Although there has been major progress in treatment of childhood leukaemia, there is much work still to be done. Education of the public has a valuable part to play, but it is vital that the information is timely and accurate.

KENNETH CAMPBELL  
Leukaemia Research Fund  
London WC1

## Bottom of the list

Sir: Michael Cooper (letter, 23 November) rightly points out that the closed list system precludes independents like Martin Bell ever being elected. But this is only the half of it.

In our parliamentary system it is candidates who stand for election, and there is a list of requirements and exclusions that control who can and cannot stand. In this respect, parties are not registered or formally recognised in law, so since when they become an electable entity? If the constitution is to be opened up like this, we must know what organisations can and cannot take part.

Another key point arises from the fact that we, the electorate, will learn who will represent us only after the election. Will this new type of representative be governed by the same rules as apply currently to candidates? At what stage are they to be screened and by whom?

MAX BERAN  
Didcot, Oxfordshire

## No going back

Sir: Ed Clarke's omelette (letter 30 November) will not unscramble the eggs because of the entropy (irreversibility) created in the process of its manufacture. A better measure of the passage of time and its associated irreversibility is to ponder the claim, "Nuclear electricity will be too cheap to meter." May I have a research grant please?

Professor A PORTEOUS  
Faculty of Technology  
The Open University  
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

## Correction

The extract quoted in the first paragraph of Saturday's *Cold Call* with Auberon Waugh was wrongly attributed to Sebastian Faulks. It was in fact written by Julian Barnes. We apologise to both writers.

## Why General Pinochet's a better bet than Jeremy Clarkson

THE SPECULATION over the identity of the Poet Laureate has not exactly hotted up, but it has at least passed into that stage which is more interesting to every warm-blooded Britisher - the betting stage; and odds are now being offered on virtually every conceivable candidate. As I am a bit short of readyies in the run-up to Christmas, I am going to start a book on the leading candidates, and I invite you all to send huge wagers to me.

The main runners, with a brief description of each one's history and likely appeal, are as follows...

5/1 Benjamin Zephaniah: Traditional Anglo-Rasta-style rant-dub-poet, whose live appearances are always exciting. Poet Laureates, of course, do not make live appearances, so

this may be a doubtful advantage.

On the other hand, if Zephaniah were to be nominated Poet Laureate, he might well insist on doing live gigs for all royal occasions, and things could change dramatically. His election would appeal enormously to ethnic minorities, as he is black, though not a woman. It would also appeal to the Jewish community. He is not Jewish, but he has two Jewish names, which helps.

John Hegley: A much-published and much-loved younger poet. He has written much poetry in which members of his family are seen darkly as sources of trouble and aggro, and this might well appeal to the Queen. He would also be the first Poet Laureate to have written extensively about wearing specta-

cles, and I think this would also appeal to the Queen.

8/1 Wendy Cope, Fiona Pitt-Kethley, Beryl Bainbridge: Many people feel it is time to have a woman as Poet Laureate, in the spirit of positive discrimination, and Cope and Pitt-Kethley are the obvious ones. Beryl Bainbridge is included because people feel so sorry for her after not getting the Booker Prize. The fact that she does not write poetry should not deter you from sending me money to place her on her

10/1 Andrew Motion: The respectable academic choice. He has written a life of Philip Larkin, who ever, one thought should have been the last Poet Laureate, which may or may

similarly, may or may not bode well.

15/1 Sir Roger McGough: Roger has indicated privately that, if he was made Poet Laureate, he could never justify it to fellow Liverpudlians like Brian Patten or, indeed, to ex-members of The Scaffold, and that he would far prefer a simple knighthood. But he is in with a shout.

20/1 Sir Tim Rice: He has privately indicated that he has got a knighthood already but that it would be nice to have a laureateship to go along with it. The money that's involved is so tiny as to be unmeasurable on Sir Tim's bank account. On the other hand, it would make a most unusual tax loss.

**MILES KINGSTON**  
He'd be the first Poet Laureate to have written about specs; this would appeal to the Queen

not bode well. Lots of people remember his best-selling pop single, "Poetry in Motion", which

66/1 The late Ted Hughes: There is a persistent lobby in favour of Ted Hughes, who many people think cannot be replaced and who would be well honoured by posthumous retention. Those who protest that he is no longer likely to produce poems to mark royal birthdays might usefully remember that this is not bad thing.

30/1 General Pinochet: It is a little-known fact that the Poet Laureate cannot be extradited for any offence committed abroad, so Pinochet's supporters are moving heaven and earth to get him elected.

100/1 Clive James, Pam Ayres, Kevin Turvey, Jeremy Clarkson, Dame Edna etc

Please send SAE for full details

At last is not battle

# THE INDEPENDENT

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## At last, education is not a political battleground

TODAY'S PUBLICATION of examination league tables is no longer the cue for party political arguments. This is a welcome sign of a new consensus on education policy: as the public debate shifts to the mechanics of teaching and the details of raising schools' performance, so the ideology that so marred the Seventies and Eighties has been fading into the background.

Establishing homework clubs, wiring schools to the Internet, fixing buildings, lowering speed limits for traffic around schools: these seem to be the new minutiae on which schools will be judged. It is as if the great set-piece confrontations over "child-centred learning", grammar schools, selection and coursework have exhausted all the passion of politicians and professionals alike.

The Conservatives do not seem to be interested in opposing the Government's education policies. Proposals for paying teachers by results, in order to attract outstanding graduates to the teaching profession, were circulating in Conservative circles just before the election.

The Prime Minister is skilled at appropriating the political middle ground. New Labour promotes with zeal the same league tables the Tories initiated; the determination to tackle failing schools would have been the same whichever party was in power. Mr Blair has seized the "radical centre" he so covets; the Government's decision to defer to local parents' wishes on selection at 11-plus is a masterly example of this.

The Government knows that the teaching unions are no longer the unassailable vested interest they once were; for one thing, New Labour has skilfully detached the more radical National Union of Teachers from the other unions. It was the NUT alone which yesterday protested at the plans for performance-related pay. David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, can afford to ignore it; which union has ever come out on strike to resist a hefty pay rise for a good many of its members?

Given the Government's plans to spend more on schools, and Mr Blunkett's obvious emotional commitment to make sure that all children have access to the best education, the left has been silenced. But the right, so passionate for so long about the threat to "standards", also seems to have melted away. No longer does any serious politician envisage a "grammar school in every town", as John Major did; no longer are teachers met with a stream of invective from fashionable academe.

This new consensus opens up possibilities. The devolution of teaching has become a critical problem, one which dogmas of right and left could not solve. The right would make teachers guardians of an unattainable past, while the left would expose them to classes without the necessary ability to demand discipline from their pupils.



Education policy must now rebuild the public's confidence in teachers, and their confidence in themselves.

The gains of peace in our classrooms are clear: rising standards of literacy and numeracy for our children. The gains can already be seen in today's league tables, and the increase in pupils gaining top grades in their GCSEs and A-levels. Those gains are real and measurable – and the detail on specific schools, regions and types of schooling would never have been available without agreement that collating the information was desirable. The tables will be even more detailed and useful in future, when the results achieved by each school will be related to the ability of the children when they entered that school.

Britain's failure to educate itself as well as its competitors has been a cause of social decay and economic decline. If we can now ignore the extremists who would divert us into futile arguments about selection and teaching methods, so much the better. The Government has fostered that new consensus: it should be congratulated.

## An archaic law to deal with a puerile action

THE APPEARANCE of Peter Tatchell in a magistrates' court yesterday tells us more about the Church of England than it does about Mr Tatchell.

His invasion of Archbishop Carey's pulpit during his Easter sermon was childish and counter-productive, fixing in the public mind an image of gay rights campaigners as irresponsible extremists. But the laws under which he stands accused are a throwback to Britain's feudal past. Mr Tatchell has been charged under section 2 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Act of 1860, a law that originated in the Bawling Act of 1551. What nation allows the modern problem of non-violent protest to be tackled under arcane legislation covering "indecent behaviour in a church"?

Those two Acts give all churches a protection that has

little grounding in either logic or justice. Company directors have no such protection during board meetings. This is not the only example of Christianity's protected status. It is only the Christian religion that enjoys protection under the blasphemy laws, a standing insult to citizens who profess other faiths.

The Church of England itself enjoys too many exemptions from statute law. Complaints against the clergy are dealt with by consistory courts rather than industrial tribunals. Bishops have the automatic right to sit in the House of Lords – other religions have to rely on government discretion in choosing who sits there. Many bishops are admirable, but they would be better chosen on the same basis as those from other faiths. The bravado of the Bishop of Edinburgh, who has spoken in defence of Mr Tatchell – if not his tactics – would make him the first candidate.

Mr Tatchell's actions have not done his own cause much good; but they have highlighted privileges outdated in a truly "modern" nation.

## When will Paddy's party realise it does agree with Tony Blair?

LATER TONIGHT the Liberal Democrat MPs in the House of Commons will file into the lobbies – alongside the Hague's, the Redwoods and the mad Pinochets of the New Forest – to vote against the Government's Queen's Speech. This act of opposition was described by one anonymous senior Lib Dem source as an assertion of separate identity.

This is all rather depressing. It is barely two weeks since Tony and Paddy signed a little *billet-doux* speaking of their regard for each other, and their plans to expand the role of the Joint Consultative Committee (you know, the one which is discussing constitutional change) to cover other issues. "This will be an important step in challenging the destructive tribalism that can afflict British politics," they trilled. Their aim was "to ensure the ascendancy of progressive politics in Britain".

Amen. For nearly 20 years what a

Lib Dem or a centrist Labourite might have thought they saw in Britain was the trampling over liberal and progressive values by a Conservative Party maintained in power by an entrenched and desperately self-interested third of the electorate. Even in its attenuated, Majorite form, the Tory party held out against the modernisation of the British political system, its devolution, and against openness. This was made possible, in part, by the division in the ranks of those opposed to the Conservatives, and in part by the agonisingly slow process of change within Labour.

Since May 1997, a substantial part of what constituted the Liberal

Democrat core programme has been enacted, or is being proposed, by the Blair government for this parliamentary session. This is not conjecture; this is fact. It is fair to assume that by the time of the next election even more of it will have been realised. I may be wrong, but I believe that a Freedom of Information Act will be on the statute books by the time we are next asked to choose a government.

The centrepiece of last week's Queen's Speech was the abolition of the rights of hereditary peers to vote in the House of Lords. It is a reform as radical as that of creating a Scottish Parliament, and as psychologically significant. It is also something that every previous progressive government (obviously) has failed to do. I hope to see the Lords replaced by an elected second chamber, wielding substantial powers of scrutiny, on the basis of open list proportional representation.

On these grounds alone you might have expected enthusiastic, if qualified, support tonight from the Lib Dems. Even if, as Paddy Ashdown said in last week's debate, "there is much that the Government have done, and intend to do, which we support and on which we have worked with them, but there is also much in this programme for the next year that falls short – in some cases, far short – of what we would wish".

But no. There is the urge to "assert a separate identity". The clever jibes about Paddy's unrequited love for Tony contained in William Hague's technically brilliant, but intellectually vacuous, speech last Tuesday seem



### DAVID AARONOVITCH

Many voters want to see precisely the kind of organisation that embraces both Blair and Ashdown

to have acted as a goad to the Lib Dems. "The trouble is," as someone said to me yesterday, "the voters don't really understand the notion of constructive opposition."

So pretenses are being sought for voting "No" tonight. At first, these were slightly desultory. The Lewes Lib Dem MP Norman Baker, told the House that: "We do not disagree with much in the Queen's Speech, but we have made the point that a huge amount is missing from it – whether on the environment or whatever – and that is terribly important. We have great doubts about the value of the Queen's Speech for that reason." Or whatever!

It is unusual to oppose something because of what is not in it. The key question is this: would the world, in Liberal Democrat terms, be a better

place if none of the provisions of the Queen's Speech were enacted? If the answer is "No", then the decision to vote against may be seen as, at best, a capricious one. And the answer most certainly is "No".

Poor, simple voters may have difficulty with the concept of constructive opposition, but they sure as hell understand destructive opposition; opposition for opposition's sake.

One Lib Dem message that all have absorbed over the years has been the need to replace "yak-boo" politics with something more dignified and more practical. Short shrift would be offered to a party that once espoused such principles, unless it could show that its differences were great and meaningful; that there was a fundamental fissure twixt New Labour and Newish Liberal Democrats.

Such is the contention of magnificient, uncompromising liberals like Earl Russell, and of philosopher Michael Ignatieff. In a pamphlet, *Identity and Politics*, issued last month under the aegis of the Lib Dem associated Centre for Reform, Ignatieff denied that Tony Blair is a liberal. *Au contraire*, Blair, "doesn't like what liberals actually stand for which is liberating the citizen from an oppressive state".

This leaves us with the notion that the Liberal Democrats must resist too much co-operation with Labour in the name of electoral choice. Well, I am all for more parties, and for electoral reform. But it does occur to me that many voters want to see precisely the kind of political organisation that might embrace both Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown, and that is big enough to permit the use of talents as diverse as Chris Patten and Roy Jenkins.

Now what would that be called? Oh yes; the realignment of British politics. And it's a bit hard to tell us now that it was all an elaborate hoax, designed to absorb the Social Democratic Party and to win a few extra votes for old-fashioned liberals.

from society". Worse, the Blairite wolf in sheep's clothing seeks now to neutralise liberalism with the Third Way, an attempt to suppress Britain's "ancient tradition of vigorous, antagonistic, but peaceful political argument".

Liberals Awake, shouts Ignatieff, "this man [Blair] wants to put you all to sleep".

Insofar as I understand what Ignatieff is saying, I think he is wrong. It is the collectivist part of the centre left (as some suspicious Labour MPs have correctly divined) that has most to fear from a Lib-Lab rapprochement. I see little or nothing in the Blairite prospectus (leaving aside internal party battles) that would give any problem to a modern liberal. Let us recall that one of the main Lib Dem criticisms of New Labour is for its timidity in taking away tax money from the individual, in order for the state to redistribute as it sees fit.

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### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's due to Oscar Wilde that today we can celebrate a society that generally appreciates diversity."

Stephen Fry,  
actor and writer

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"In our ideals we unwittingly reveal our vices."

Jean Rostand,  
French biologist



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## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

North American verdicts on the provincial government elections in Quebec, Canada

IT IS important for every eligible voter in today's election to cast a ballot. Even in ridings where there is little doubt as to which candidate will win, each vote counts. That's because the total number of votes received by each of the parties province-wide will provide a gauge of the relative strengths of sovereigntist and federalist sympathies. The results of the popular vote could therefore become a significant factor in the event there is a future re-

ferendum on Quebec's future. Democracy is one of our most precious assets in Canada. And voting is a privilege that should be exercised, not taken for granted.

Montreal Gazette, Canada

LIBERAL PARTY leader Charest stands firm on the fact that another referendum is something to be avoided. Bouchard of the sovereigntist Parti Québécois is keen to hold another one – even if he has to

create a smokescreen by claiming that it is to promote the negotiation of Canada's social union. But the PQ has no intention of resurrecting federalism. The electorate has to give their support to Charest. He merits the confidence of all those Quebecois who are opposed to the menace that another referendum would bring.

La Tribune, Canada

QUEBEC HAS been holding a separatist sword of Damocles over Canada's head for much of the past 30 years. Twenty-two million other Canadians are tired of the dance of uncertainty. If Bouchard wins, Quebecers should think hard about whether to give him the room he needs to hold another referendum, which could drive more English speakers, business and goodwill from their province.

Chicago Tribune, US

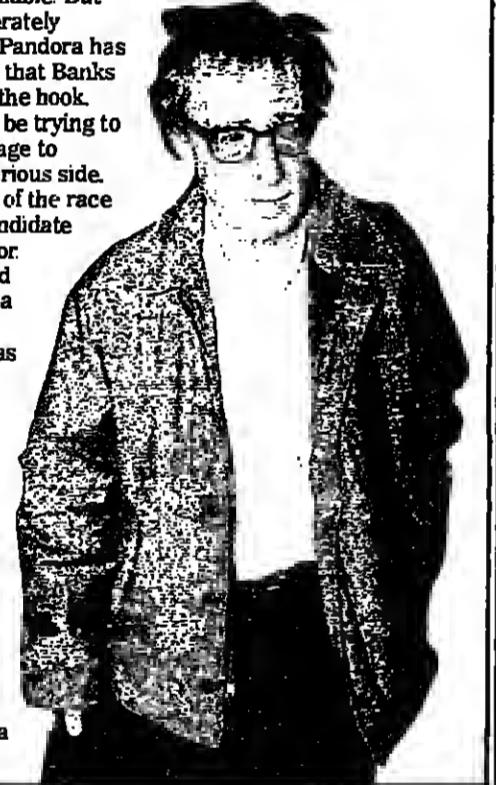
Ottawa Sun, Canada

## PANDORA

A FETCHING press release with both the Lords emblem and the Stringfellow's logo has arrived on Pandora's desk. This unlikely union has sprung from the innovative loins of the Conservative hereditary peer and poker player Lord Bethell. Bethell announces that Stringfellow's is the venue for an evening reception of London's Conservative candidates for the European Parliament this week. The event will feature as guest of honour Lord Archer, "who will speak and auction a number of items for party funds". Pandora hopes, given the venue, that these are appropriate items for political fundraising. Certainly the description of the evening in the release leaves little to the imagination. Of Stringfellow's it boasts: "Where better can the business man, alone in the strange city, relax and enjoy himself after a difficult day spent on insurance and banking, or otherwise up the financial sharp end?"

AT FIRST glance the announcement by the National Archives in the US that some more historical documents have been released may not seem to be thrilling. But the latest batch is an exception. Amongst the treasures being aired on 18 December are a map of the California gold fields, the arrest warrant for Lee Harvey Oswald and – the cherry on the cake – a letter from Elvis Presley to President Nixon asking to be appointed a federal agent-at-large. Well, the King may never have made it as an agent, but he certainly made it to being large.

AS PANDORA anticipated (in June) a new book about the Sports Minister and House of Commons jester Tony Banks has been published. *The Wit and Wisdom of Tony Banks: A Tribute to a Parliamentary Career*, written by Iain Dale and published by Robson Books, is now available. But despite the deliberately affectionate title, Pandora has heard mutterings that Banks is not amused by the book. Banks appears to be trying to shed his joker image to portray a more serious side, especially in view of the race to the Labour's candidate for London's mayor. Pandora contacted Banks's office for a comment on the book, but there was no response. Meanwhile, Pandora would like to remind readers why Banks is such a valuable asset to Parliament, with selected Banksisms such as this one: "I don't care whether I'm a minister, I don't care whether I'm a



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## There's no poetry in bookselling

THERE WILL probably be disagreement among historians of the future as to when exactly late-20th-century book publishing finally gave up any pretence to cultural seriousness and quietly embraced the values of the pop music business or estate agency. The disappearance of medium-sized independent houses into the maw of media multinationals during the Eighties will be seen as one key moment; the more recent abandonment of price control on books, tightening the stranglehold on the industry of giant bookselling chains and publishing conglomerates, another. A significant footnote in the story may be the court case in which the American publisher Random House, ingloriously attempted to wriggle out of an embarrassing, expensive contract with their successful author of trash, Joan Collins, on the grounds that her latest book was trash.

Then, at some point, the historians will cast their eyes upon the university presses, this time over what he eats. *The Washington Post* published the Clinton menu for Thanksgiving last week, with almost as many entries at the Starr report. At Camp David, Bill, Hillary and Chelsea tucked into a starter of corn chowder, followed by turkey stuffed with cornbread dressing, roasted prime rib with horseradish cream, maple-glazed sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, chilled asparagus, cranberry sauce, corn, squash and three kinds of pie: apple, pecan and pumpkin.

Meanwhile, Downing Street has assured Pandora that there will be "nothing unusual" about the Blair's Christmas meal at Chequers this year. Cappuccino all round, then?

One can of course get excessively lyrical and overestimate the extent to which Britain has aided the course of independence, peace and democracy in the region. I will never forget the shame that I felt a few years ago as I sat in Chatham House among a group that was made up predominantly of businessmen who had gathered to hear an Argentine minister by the name of Martinez de Hoz. He was, if I remember correctly, an Old Etonian.

At that time Argentina was in the hands of a pitiless gang of military tyrants who were throwing their political prisoners to their deaths from aircraft over the South Atlantic and doing vile things to their citizens that possibly, just possibly, might have made even Pinochet blanch. I asked the speaker a mild-mannered question about human rights in Argentina and was treated by him to a defence of torture at the end of which the British businessmen and hankies broke into spontaneous applause.

And many people are too lyrical about Britain's role in Latin America. Innumerable are the dinners I have attended in Bogota or Caracas or Mexico which have been drawn to a somnolent conclusion by an



### TERENCE BLACKER

*Editors, in their terror of  
bullying accountants,  
have chosen to forget to  
nurture today's writers*

cause a certain aura of seriousness still attends academic publishing. Presses that are answerable to a university rather than to shareholders are regarded as inherently more serious, and less vulgarly concerned with financial matters.

There is also, of course, the fact that university presses wield astonishing power. The vast majority of authors who write for them have

no literary agents and, such is the desperate need of academics to sustain their careers by getting published, these people are a publisher's dream: unworried, compliant and doggedly grateful that their work will appear in print, however badly they are treated.

In the past, this imbalance of power between publisher and author caused occasional acts of malpractice (not by chance did Robert Maxwell make his fortune in this area), and a general meanness towards authors, which only occasionally came to light. Now the game has become more complicated and somewhat seedier.

The astonishing, shaming decision of the Oxford University Press to dump, without appeal or exception, its highly respected poetry list has revealed that, while still claiming to be a special case when it suits them, university presses can act with all the crass shortsightedness and greed of their colleagues in the purely commercial sector. The poetry list was making the marketing people face in a different direction from the way they are facing when they are promoting

the *World's Classics* series or *The Oxford History of Nursing*, was how an OUP suit attempted to explain the decision to *The Independent's* John Walsh.

That phrase, indeed the whole sorry saga, explains why modern publishing is now accorded so little respect. For as long as anyone can remember, the only direction that marketing people face is up the bottom of their powerful book-selling customers.

Although publishers were never quite as virtuous and noble as they liked to pretend, it was generally accepted that, in a healthily run house, a balance would exist between the sales and the editorial sides. One attended to turnover and profit while the other created a list that occasionally involved risk in the name of future talent. A small proportion of the easy cash made from such series as the *World's Classics* would be ploughed back into more difficult areas of contemporary writing, such as poetry.

As anyone who works in a university will testify, academics are hopeless with money and the new, fiscally responsible approach to

learning has left them floundering amid the balance sheets. But on this occasion they are in step with their colleagues in the large publishing conglomerates.

The trend there is towards quick and easy revenue-earners, books whose appeal can be grasped without difficulty by even the most money-crazed marketing person. Rather than nurture real writers who, in the future, will (all right, may) repay them with work of significance, they prefer to throw money at any politician or resting actor whose literary effort, however lame, will be relatively simple to promote. Editors, in their terror of bullying accountants, have chosen to forget to nurture today's writers.

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The refusal of academics to hold the line against commercialism is publishing's own *trahison des clercs*. Oxford University Press finds itself on the cutting edge of contemporary style culture.

## Will Mr Straw join the pantheon of our heroes in Latin America?

"LET HUMBLE Albion, with an awkward shame/Do good by stealth, and blush to find it tame."

The (slightly doctored) lines of Alexander Pope in his aptly named *Work To Augustus* are a hettier text than most for the Home Secretary to ponder as he settles down this week to decide the future of Pinochet. They could remind him that, if he comes to the right decision and sends the baby-torturer of Santiago to a well deserved trial in Spain, he would join the large group of people from these islands who have, knowingly or unknowingly, done a great deal for the cause of democracy in Latin America.

One can of course get excessively lyrical and overestimate the extent to which Britain has aided the course of independence, peace and democracy in the region. I will never forget the shame that I felt a few years ago as I sat in Chatham House among a group that was made up predominantly of businessmen who had gathered to hear an Argentine minister by the name of Martinez de Hoz. He was, if I remember correctly, an Old Etonian.

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Never mind, Latin America was helped to independence by British soldiers, and that independence was thereafter guaranteed by British sailors. And, much more recently, the British response to the invasion of the Falkland Islands



### HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY

*Now Pinochet's spell has been broken by the British, as Galtieri's was by the Falklands war*

address from the British ambassador dwelling on the glorious contribution of British troops to the emergence of the republics from the imperial grasp of Spain two centuries ago. After all, is it not the case that to this day and in recognition of their support of Simon Bolivar, the liberator, British troops may parade through the streets of Venezuela under arms and with drums beating and colours flying?

British diplomats tend to lay less emphasis on the fact that after the wars against Napoleon ended and he was packed off safely to St Helena a host – or, perhaps better, a horde – of desperate British ex-servicemen of all ranks who were facing destitution at home swarmed across the Atlantic to seek their fortunes in battles between what they must have considered as one sort of dago and another.

Never mind, Latin America was helped to independence by British soldiers, and that independence was thereafter guaranteed by British sailors. And, much more recently, the British response to the invasion of the Falkland Islands

by the drunken General Leopoldo Galtieri ended up by bringing a good measure of democracy back to Argentina. The defeat of the Argentines by British forces was from the first a foregone conclusion if only these forces could be landed on the islands.

The wretched, untrained Argentine garrison in the Falklands, comprising as it did untrained men whose equipment and rations had been stolen by their officers, was shown after the war to have been the victims more of its own side than of the fury of an outraged Margaret Thatcher. The unconscionable bungling of the Argentine generals meant they were tossed out by popular fury in Argentina the year after the British returned to Stanley to be replaced after fair elections by a civilian president Raúl Alfonsín.

To this day the British resolve to keep the Falklands Islands from Argentina unless and until the Falklanders themselves decide to throw in their lot with their neighbours over the water to the west is serving to exercise a moderating influence on Argentine leaders. Did we hear President Menem last month repeating in London his pre-election claim that he would take back the Falklands if necessary by fire and sword, an operation that could not be undertaken without vast new investment in the Argentine military and its political rehabilitation? No, thank God, we did not.

Now, with a certain amount of awkward shame, the same phenomenon is happening in Chile. It is, on the face of it, a surprising development. I spent much of Tuesday 11 September 1973 in the British embassy in Santiago. I had gone there that morning with my friend, Stewart Russell, of Reuters, on a fruitless hunt for a way to send the story of Pinochet's putsch back to London after his men had cut com-

munications with the outside world. As we munched sandwiches in the corridors many of the staff, and notably the military personnel, drank toasts and whooped with delight at the overthrow of the left-wing president, Salvador Allende, and the arrival of the smack of firm government in uniform.

This was the first day of 17 years of horror for the Chileans. Worse, it was the day when the Chilean body politic underwent a lobotomy which was not reversed until the House of Lords gave its historic verdict against Pinochet last week.

From 1973 the Chileans have been, as I saw most recently in Chile in September, in a mental daze. There were indeed noisy demonstrations before the television cameras by rich right-wing housewives most of whom banged in the cause of Pinochet the saucepans which they were unable to use with any skill themselves and which are routinely cleaned by their ill-paid domestic servants. However, these women constituted a tiny minority of the

country. The majority were opposed to Pinochet. But, lobotomised, they were incapable of throwing off their fear of another coup, either under Pinochet himself, until he surrendered command of the army in March this year, or under his successor – the handsome, rich and callous General Izquierdo. After he laid his grey military cape aside Pinochet, immune from prosecution under a constitution that he wrote, took up the senatorial seat he had created for himself, one of a number which ensured that that the Congress was comprehensively emasculated.

Now Pinochet's spell has been broken by the British, as Galtieri's was in 1982, and things will never be the same again. The Chileans may recover from their lobotomy and, as my friend the Chilean foreign minister has suggested, put the man on trial themselves. Humble Albion might not have set out with that in mind. But it has happened.

As the Lady said in 1982: "Rejoice, rejoice!"

It is too often said that we are not good in this country at technology transfer, but we have, in fact, been good at the transfer of elite science to the pharmaceutical, aerospace and biotechnology industries. In many of these new industries we have a strong position in world markets – an advantage we must be careful not to throw away.

For too many people, Britain has a proud heritage. We invented the steam engine, the jet engine, the Hovercraft. The names of Newton, Darwin, and Faraday are known worldwide. Our promotional activities tend to cement this view by plumping for the safe option – Stephenson's Rocket rather than the *Psion* Organizer.

We need instead to build up knowledge among trading partners of contemporary British hi-tech achievements. The Millennium Products ac-



General Galtieri, centre, and senior officers in 1982

AP

## We are the land of Lara Croft

I WANT to begin by stating a principle which was expressed in typically provocative terms by Professor John Kay a few years ago. Kay remarked: "The focus of industrial policy should not be on what we do worse than other people, but on what we do better."

Kay gives many examples of areas in which national competitive advantage seems to have been built – fitted kitchens in Germany, financial services in London and Manhattan, automobiles in Japan, the knitwear producers and shoemakers of Italy – and asks why this has been the case. The most important reason is the opportunity which clusters of firms provide, once a critical mass has been established, for the growth and transfer of skills and knowledge within the sector. "It is on success in creating the networks which facilitate these exchanges that many competitive advantages in today's world depend," Kay concludes.

The competitive strength of each firm within the network derives from the knowledge base to which all contribute and have access. Some as-

### PODIUM

DAVID SAINSBURY  
From a speech by Lord Sainsbury of Turville,  
the Minister for Science, to the Social Market Foundation

ing winners, but, perversely, on picking losers. Losers that we would have liked to be winners. Attempts to revive British Leyland, for example, through state intervention turned out to be a sorry failure, and pre-dictably so.

But while we should not seek to pick winners, we at the DTI should be vitally concerned to back successful British companies.

The list of Britain's leading

sectors is not particularly controversial. They include pharmaceuticals, chemicals, telecommunications, hydrocarbons, biotechnology, electrical engineering, computer software, financial services – all unequivocally knowledge-intensive activities.

It is too often said that we are not good in this country at technology transfer, but we have, in fact, been good at the transfer of elite science to the pharmaceutical, aerospace and biotechnology industries. In many of these new industries we have a strong position in world markets – an advantage we must be careful not to throw away.

A government not blinded by the white heat of technology, or interested in picking winners, but concerned with a competitive framework.

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# Scotland can pay its own way



HAMISH MCRAE

*There is no powerful economic argument against Scotland going for full independence*

ST ANDREWS Day, and Scotland chooses the English Queen to open the new Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, the building that at last gives the country a single place where it can house the treasures that define its past national identity: from the Pictish Jewels to an 1806 Newcomen beam engine.

It is coincidence, but the opening happens amidst a turmoil of questions about the definition of Scotland's future identity. Down in London the creation of the Scottish assembly is seen in party political terms: is whatever is happening good, bad or indifferent for the Labour party? But as anyone who has spent much time across the Border this autumn will know, in Scotland it is a time of wonder and worry: is something seismic starting to happen, something as important as the union of the two parliaments in 1707, that will lead to an independent Scotland on the model (more or less) of the Republic of Ireland?

Unsurprisingly, much of the current debate has been about money – as indeed was the debate in 1707 – but about money in a curiously static way. The viability of an independent Scotland has been dissected in terms of the amount of money that Scotland receives in public spending from the UK as a whole, and the amount it raises in tax. Thus Donald Dewar in a lecture a couple of weeks ago dwelt on the costs of a break-up of the union, of "reinventing in Scotland everything from Customs and Excise to the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce, from the Benefit Agency to the Foreign Office, from National Insurance to the National Debt".

True, Mr Dewar went on to argue in favour of the union in political terms as well – "Is there really a crying need for a separate seat at the UN?" – but so far as the debate is about economics, it is about dividing up the cake, rather than making a bigger one.

The reason for this, I think, is simply that there are good figures for tax revenues and public spending for Scotland, so you can have a good, meaty debate rather than an airy-fairy one. Just a couple of weeks ago the Scottish Office published "Government Expenditure



The Queen yesterday examines a 15th-century harp reputedly played by Mary, Queen of Scots at the new Museum of Scotland PA

and Revenue in Scotland 1996-1997" which did show that Scotland benefited from more spending per head than the UK as a whole: it has 8.7 per cent of the UK population and gets 10.1 per cent of spending.

That amounts to a gap of £4bn, not allowing for North Sea oil. The calculations then depend a bit on the proportion of oil revenues ascribed to Scotland, but even if you were to give Scotland the lot, there would still be a gap. During the early Eighties Scotland was running a large fiscal surplus, but given the present price of oil, an Eighties-style

bonanza looks decidedly unlikely.

That is the static argument. The dynamic one is surely more interesting, and more useful as a guide to the future. It falls into two parts. The first is whether, were Scotland to be fully independent, it could use independence to fine-tune its tax system and to use public spending more appropriately. For example, could it not use tax incentives to attract foreign investment in the way Ireland has done? The Scottish bodies that encourage inward investment have done a good job, but they have to operate within nar-

rower boundaries than their counterparts in the Republic of Ireland.

Meanwhile on the spending side, surely locally run civil service could extract a bigger bang for its bucks than a body that has to answer to the Treasury in London. Does Scotland need, in Donald Dewar's phrase, to "reinvent" its version of the Foreign Office? Well, yes – as Ireland has. But it would not necessarily feel the need, say, to maintain troops in Germany, or for that matter, Northern Ireland. So there would be economies here, as well as some additional costs.

The second part of the dynamic argument is even more important.

Let's assume that an independent Scotland would be a couple of billion worse off in purely fiscal terms. The country's GDP is roughly £70bn. Assume 3 per cent growth and the country would be losing the equivalent of one year's growth – or rather, having to attribute all the growth of one year towards higher public spending. People would notice that, for they would feel a bit poorer as a result. But were Scotland to manage the growth rates of Ireland through the Eighties it

would be equivalent to about four months' growth – in which case the loss would be hardly noticeable.

So the really interesting economic question – the one I find most intriguing – is whether Scotland might achieve the sort of "run for growth" that Ireland has achieved in recent years. I suppose I should at this stage disclose where I am, as the Americans would say, am coming from: I am an Anglo-Scot, brought up mostly in the Republic of Ireland and educated in Edinburgh and Dublin. If you knew Ireland in the Fifties and Sixties, and know Scotland now, you can see many parallels. Might Scotland follow the experience of Ireland in the Fifties and Sixties and be an area of relative economic stagnation? Or might it become a European economic bigger, as Ireland is now?

Part of the answer must lie with the European Union, for it has been massive EU transfers that have jump-started Ireland's burst of growth. If you make transfers of up to 7 per cent of GDP into a country year after year, it would be pretty odd were there not to be an economic boom. Those transfers will not go on for ever. But Ireland has other strengths: high levels of education, a strong, exportable culture, and a business-friendly tax environment for foreign business. Scotland already has the first two and could develop the third. It might also develop a more tax-friendly environment for indigenous business too: encouraging local businesses to expand, rather than new foreign ones to come in, has wisely become a new focus of policy in Scotland.

Scotland would not have the benefits of big EU transfers – at least not on Ireland's scale – nevertheless there is another reason to expect a modest economic improvement, or at least no under-performance, were it to be independent.

This is that small countries are no longer at an economic disadvantage to bigger ones.

The big argument for having a large country is economies of scale: a large country means a large market. But as world trade increases, it becomes possible for small countries to reap economies of scale too. EU membership automatically gives a country a much larger market, but even without it, small countries can prosper. Look at Switzerland (7 million) or Norway (4.4 million). If Quebec voted to go it alone (as it may well do) it would be fielding a population of 7.5 million. Go down to the size of Iceland or Barbados, both at a quarter of a million, and you probably do carry some penalty for being so tiny. But at 5 million Scotland would be a normal smaller nation.

Should we therefore do the full Monty and go for complete independence? That surely is a decision for Scottish people, in Scotland, not for part-Scots living mostly in London. But what we can say is that there is no powerful economic argument against it, if that is indeed what the people want to do.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

PAUL MAGEEAN

An officer of the Committee on the Administration of Justice responds to a leading article about torture

The United Nations Committee Against Torture (CAT) recently examined the record of the UK. *The Independent* said that to use the language of torture in a UK or Northern Ireland context debases the currency of universal human rights.

An obvious case of debasing human rights was heard in the Northern Ireland High Court earlier this year when David Adams was awarded £30,000 for injuries which the court found were inflicted by RUC officers at his arrest and in Castlereagh detention centre. Mr Adams's head was allegedly grabbed and pounded against the ground a number of times. He is said to have been subjected to continued beating during which his lung was punctured by one of the ribs that the police had broken. Allegedly the barrel of a rifle was driven into the back of his head, causing a severe laceration and in the detention centre, a number of officers took turns to perform running jumps directed at Mr Adams's left leg, which eventually broke. To date no officer has been disciplined, much less brought to trial.

Cases such as this illustrate the need for continued international vigilance by human rights mechanisms. While CAT did not find that the UK used torture as an instrument of policy, it did highlight the fact that regimes in detention centres create the conditions for ill-treatment. Hundreds of thousands of pounds have been paid in compensation for ill-treatment in the holding centres, yet none of the complaints made has ever been upheld.

The Government refused until this year to introduce silent video recording of interviews. Lawyers are still not permitted to attend the interviews, and audio recording, although promised, has still not been introduced. The courts in Northern Ireland and the House of Lords have found that the regime in the detention centres has been constructed to coerce suspects to speak. The supervision of human rights remains essential.

# Reconciling town and country



## TUESDAY BOOK

TOWN AND COUNTRY  
EDITED BY ANTHONY BARNETT AND ROGER SCRUTON, JONATHAN CAPE, £12.99



The myth of the country is debunked in 'Town and Country' *The Mirror*

for the loathed "incomers". The whole context of food, ecology and rural employment might have been different if only more farmers had asserted their own skills and said no to the agro-chemical industry. The town isn't to blame but perhaps the City is. But which is the road out?

*Town and Country* is good on food, with an uplifting essay by Hugh Raven on the many new small-scale trading structures across the land. But one has only to read this, and the many other essays that touch on farming and its possible futures, to become aware of one huge omission. Nowhere does anyone define what the countryside is.

Most assume it is where farming happens; or, more evasively, that you know it when you're there.

Can this really be true in the light of the immense changes documented by this book? Drive out of any town, past the golf courses, country parks, nature reserves, overgrown commons, smallholdings and paddocks. Do these form the new countryside, and should we be pleased? If not, what are they? It matters not just because they are growing at the expense of farmland, but also because they offer up many new kinds of relationship between humans and nature.

Nature does not get much direct attention here. Without exception the contributors describe the countryside – and often nature itself – as an "artefact". It is a dated, anthropocentric view, rather like that of a Victorian person who sees nature in need of redemption by mankind.

Natural or not, the countryside is

## TUESDAY POEM

### MY LIFE ASLEEP

BY JO SHAPCOTT

Everything is loud: the rasp of bed-sheets, clamour of hair-tangles, clink of teeth. Small sweat takes up residence in each crease of body, but breathing's even, herself warm, room safe as a London room can be. The tube rumbles only metres underneath and planes for Heathrow circle on the roof. You'll find the body and all the air it exhales smellier than by day; she's kinder, more supple. Bend close to catch the delicacies of sleep, to bear skin tick, to taste the mandragora of night sweat. Lean forward and put a finger on the spot you think the dream is.

This poem comes from Jo Shapcott's new collection, 'My Life Asleep' (Oxford University Press, £6.99)

## Oxfam Hurricane Appeal

"Imagine your worst nightmare. Imagine waking up to something a hundred times worse."

Daniel Alegria, Oxfam, Nicaragua, November 1995

### That's how

Hurricane Mitch felt to the people of Central America.

Over 18,000 people are dead or missing.

Millions of survivors are in desperate need.

Oxfam is there. Water equipment, sent within days of the disaster, is already saving thousands of lives – providing clean, safe water and preventing further deaths from cholera and diarrhoea.

Food, medicines, and temporary shelters have been sent to help people who have lost everything. We need your help to do more. A water tap can cost as little as £25; a feeding kit for 500 people as much as £250.

Please send your gift to the Oxfam Hurricane Appeal, using the coupon below, or phone now on:

**01865 313131**

Yes, I want to help. Here is my gift of:

£25  £50  £100  £250  £

Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms

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Please send to: Oxfam, Room B819, FREEPOST, Oxford OX2 7BR. Long-term recovery in Honduras and Nicaragua will take decades and cost billions. Debt cancellation and long-term aid is the only sensible solution. If you want to know more about Oxfam's campaign for debt relief in Central America, please tick here. □



# Captain Geoffrey Kirkby

GOFFREY KIRKBY, a distinguished wartime destroyer captain, was a natural leader and an specially skilled seaman, even in that distinguished generation of destroyer captains. But though he was often the right man in the right place - three awards of Distinguished Service Cross in three years speak for themselves - his times were not always right or him.

He got off to a cracking start as in acting Sub-Lieutenant in 1939, when the war ended he was still an acting Lieutenant-Commander. He had what is now often referred to as a "good war", but when it ended so did many promising career prospects. That many of the deserving went no further than they did is often less a reflection on them and the fleet in which they served so well, than upon their times.

Kirkby was born in 1918 as one war was ending, when the next broke out he had just finished his Subs courses with distinction. He had joined the Navy from Taunton School in 1936, and as a midshipman, first saw sea service in the Mediterranean, in the old battleship *Malaya*. His prowess and promise were recognised by his appointment in 1939 to the new fleet destroyer *Kingston*, only launched that January. He was to serve in her until she was lost three years later.

Their short but ferocious association actually began in June 1940 and in the Red Sea, less than a fortnight after Italy decided to enter the war. Thanks to some excellent naval intelligence, which had already borne fruit, *Kingston* and her sister ships *Kandahar* and *Khartoum* were not surprised to encounter the Italian submarine *Torricelli* off Perim Island. Their attack was interrupted by an internal explosion in *Khartoum* - not due to any enemy action as is sometimes thought - but no less successful: *Torricelli* surrendered and Kirkby was sent across to seek her confidential books. The subma-

rine began to sink under him and he just got out of her conning tower in time. This effort brought his first DSC.

A year later Kirkby and his ship were involved in the evacuation first of Greece and then of Crete, when *Kingston* had the dubious distinction of operating north of the island where she was hit by a specialist German bomber squadron but earned the particular praise of the legendary Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham, then Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Fleet.

*Kingston* then saw some service in the Eastern basin of the Mediterranean against the Vichy French before taking part in the Second Battle of Sirta in March 1942 when Rear Admiral Philip Vian and his 15th Cruiser Squadron and four destroyers so nobly and notably put to flight a nominally far superior Italian force. Kirkby in *Kingston* got within three miles of the Italian battleship *Littorio* which retaliated with a 15-inch salvo, narrowly missing the destroyer and forcing her to retire to Malta. There she was sunk in dock by an air attack on 11 April, her hull ending up as a blockship. These further efforts against Italy brought Kirkby his second DSC.

Kirkby then had an unusual and interesting attachment to the Long Range Desert Group, teaching them

**When Kirkby went on board the surrendered Italian submarine Torricelli she began to sink under him; he just got out of her conning tower in time**

celestial navigation before coming home to join *Melbreak*, one of the improved Hunt class of light destroyers, of which he found himself in command at the age of 24 in the summer

June 1944; Kirkby was mentioned in despatches. His third DSC was earned for spirited interference with German efforts to evacuate Le Havre, harrying them as far as Dieppe.

Kirkby (left) with Harold Wilson on board *Tiger*, 1946

of 1943. He saw intense service in the Channel and the Western Approaches, the ship sinking five E-boats and six coasters before taking an inshore role off Omaha and Gold beaches in

Kirkby went to the Far East in time for the liberation of Singapore and to become Staff Officer Operations to Flag Officer, *Malaya*, which reminded him of his first ship, and where he met the WRNS officer Daphne Spiller whom he married in 1946. He had three promising destroyer commands which pleased him. He was a legendary ship handler: he was encouragingly promoted early to Commander in 1950 but his purely naval appointments were limited. Even so, his promotion to Captain came in December 1957.

After two years as naval adviser to Pakistan and nearly three as Director of Naval Equipment at Bath, he got his final seagoing command as Captain of the cruiser *Tiger*, which became an accommodation ship of Gibraltar for the fruitless discussions about Rhodesian sover-

ignty between Harold Wilson and Ian Smith in the autumn of 1966. Kirkby superintended the naval funeral of Viscount Cunningham, his wartime Commander-in-Chief, was appointed CBE and then, suddenly, it seemed to the many who had assumed that he would reach the Flag list, was retired early in 1967.

Geoffrey Kirkby later joined the administrative staff of the new Bath University, where his officer-like qualities were an example to his colleagues, though at times he may have sighed for the Naval Discipline Act.

A. B. SAINSBURY

Geoffrey Kirkby, naval officer: born 26 August 1918; DSC 1940 and two bars 1942, 1944; CBE 1966; married 1946 Daphne Spiller (two daughters); died 24 October 1998.

**LIGHT MUSIC** is a much maligned area of popular music, difficult to classify and frequently hard to find in the record catalogues or on modern radio stations. Yet for some 30 years this was the music that filled the media, at the cinema, on record and over the airwaves - indeed, the BBC had an entire radio station named after it.

Clive Richardson was the last of the pioneers of light music. With dozens of lively descriptive works like "Beachcomber", "Locomotion", and "Holiday Spirit", he laid down the blueprint for a style of music that influenced a generation of composers.

Born in Paris (for reasons that remain a little hazy) to English parents in 1909, the young Clive was educated at Harrow School and despite showing prodigious talent in matters musical from an early age began training to become a doctor. Wisely switching to music, he enrolled at the Royal Academy of Music, where he studied a variety of instruments, including piano, and took conducting tuition from Sir Henry Wood and composition with Norman O'Neill. He swiftly achieved his LRAM and ultimately became a fully fledged Associate (ARAM) which remained a source of great pride to him.

Through the early 1930s he freelanced as an arranger, working on

André Charlot revues such as *Please* (1933), starring Beatrice Lillie, and *Spread It Abroad* (1936), the show that introduced "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square", sung by Dorothy Dickson. He also toured as one of the pianists in "Harold Ramsay's Six-Piano Symphony" and perhaps more rewardingly as accompanist/arranger for the cabaret star Hildegarde (singer of "Darling je vous aime beaucoup"), travelling with her across Europe and America.

In 1937 he joined the Gaumont British Film Company at Lime Grove, and under the musical director Louis Levy he composed and orchestrated sections of some 100 films, in collaboration with such future greats of the light-music world as Charles ("Dick Barton") Williams, Jack ("Picture Parade") Beaver and Hubert ("Cornish Rhapsody") Bath. Seldom was a complete score composed by one person and invariably Levy took sole screen credit. (Happily research is now in hand to identify who did what.)

Richardson was certainly involved in numerous Jack Hulbert and Will Hay comedies and may well have had a hand in Hitchcock's *The Lady Vanishes* (1933) and Nicholas Brodsky's score for *French Without Tears* (1939).

At the outbreak of war he imme-

diately ceased all musical activities. Already an officer in the Territorial Reserve, he was posted to a succession of Ack-Ack Battalions and served in Coventry, Manchester and Birmingham. His experiences of the bombing in these cities and both the horrors and courage that he witnessed were the inspiration for his *London Fundus*, a short concert work in the spirit of Richard Addinsell's *Warsaw Concerto* (Dangerous Moonlight, 1941), and it proved to be Richardson's first popular hit the recording with the composer at the piano accompanied by Columbia Light Symphony orchestra conducted by Charles Williams was a best seller in 1945/46.

Also around this time he teamed up with fellow pianist Tony Lowry (former arranger with Henry Hall's dance band) to form the duo "Lowry and Richardson - Four Hands in Harmony", an unexpectedly successful turn that toured the still-flourishing variety circuits. They made several film appearances including *My Ain Folk* (1944) and later a series of Rank filters, *For Your Entertainment* (1952) featuring a performance in what must have been the tiniest studio on the lot. Two grand pianos and a troupe of dancing girls alarmingly fill the screen almost to bursting point.

The immediate post-war period saw Richardson at his most productive. In addition to the performing he was invited to work on the *ITMA* (It's That Man Again) radio series which featured a weekly orchestra interlude, performed by the Variety Orchestra conducted by Charles Shadwell. Uncopyrighted popular melodies, folk songs and nursery rhymes were the order of the day, and Richardson's inventive and lively new interpretations proved to be a great success. Re-discovered a few years ago in the BBC vaults, many of them were freshly recorded by the BBC Concert Orchestra and played as the centrepiece to the recent nostalgia series *Legends of Light Music*; they stand up well to this day.

Meanwhile, in the music publishing world, several major companies began recording works on their own labels, to provide pre-packaged music to the film, radio and soon-to-be television industries. Chappell, Francis Day and Hunter and Boosey and Hawkes began commissioning mood music compositions from Richardson. The post-war boom in light music had begun.

Among dozens of gems a handful of classics are still fondly remembered by music enthusiasts of a certain age. "Holiday Spirit", for

example, composed for the Chappell's library became the theme of BBC television's *Children's Newsreel*, "Tom Marches On" (for Paxton publishers) was the closing march in *ITMA*. "The Shadow Waltz" (by pseudonymous "Paul Dubois") became the theme to the *Francis Durbridge* television series, remade as the feature film *Portrait of Alison* (1954), while "Melody on the Move" gave its title and theme song to a long-running music radio series of the 1940s.

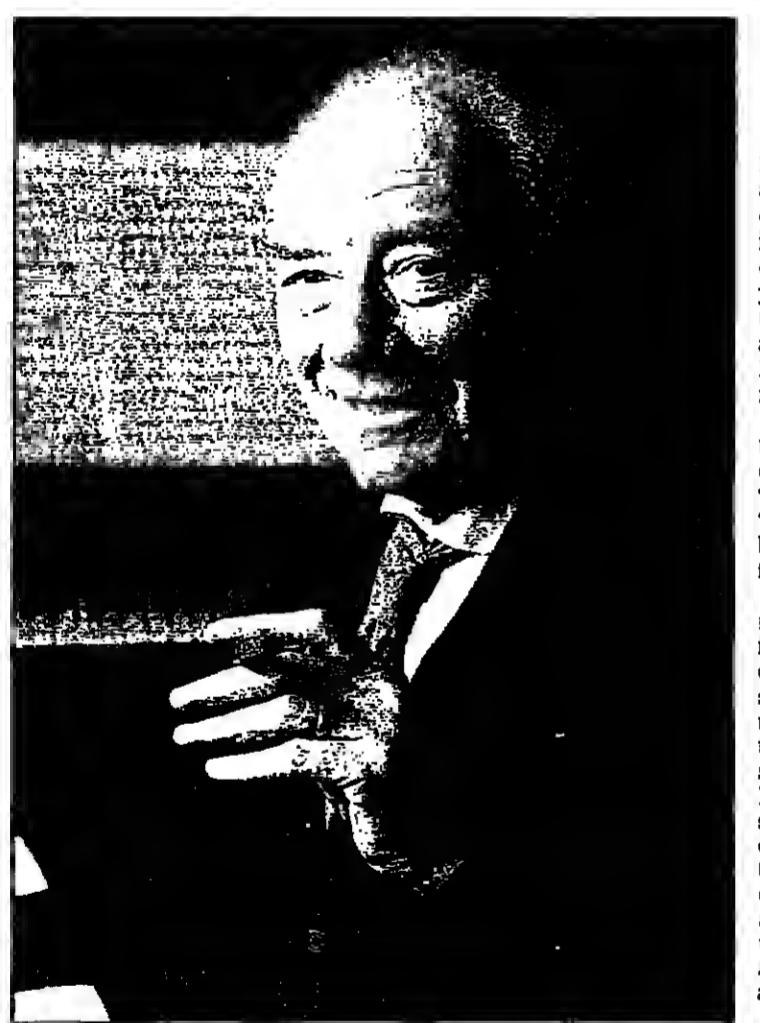
Continuing to write into the 1960s and 1970s, Richardson freely acknowledged that the call for music in his style was limited in an era of pop, and he was delighted when the Chandos library recently commissioned him to compose material for a new nostalgia CD.

In 1988 he received a token of recognition from his peers when the British Association of Songwriters Composers and Authors awarded him their Gold Medal for services to the world of music, a belated acknowledgement of his exceptional work in the field of light music.

ALEXANDER GLEASON

Clive Richardson, composer: born Paris 23 June 1909; twice married (one daughter); died London 11 November 1998.

## Clive Richardson



Richardson was one of the post-war 'legends of light music'

PETER BOULTON was a distinguished Anglican priest, a prominent member of the General Synod and for 10 years Prolocutor (Chairman) of the Convocation of York. He was powerful among the High Church group who were unhappy at the suggestions for new ecumenical relations made by Archbishop Michael Ramsey and his successors.

Boulton conscientiously devoted his clear mind to debate in public his understanding of the catholicity of the Church of England. In the General Synod he was a frequent and courteous speaker. He attended the World Council of Churches at Nairobi and Anglican Consultative Council. He edited with Bishop Graham Leonard papers which critically assessed the efforts of the archbishops to draw closer to other churches.

He was also a hardworking parish priest in the Midlands and for 20 years vicar of Worksop. He restored the Priory Church, maintained a team able to care for his parishioners during his inevitable absences and was chairman of the Bassetlaw Council for Voluntary Services which he founded. He promoted Church schools and youth clubs, became Diocesan Director of Education and Canon Residentiary of Southwell Minster. In 1991 his abilities were recognised as Chaplain to the Queen and, after his retirement in 1992, he acted as chaplain to the Conference of the Canon Law Society. At Worksop he carried out a major restoration of the fabric of the church and was meticulous in maintaining traditional worship. He developed the Church schools, youth clubs, hous-

ing associations and other voluntary services in the town. He encouraged local authority welfare services and voluntary bodies to work together for the good of the community. Some in Worksop grieved that this able caring man felt he had to spend so much time on ecclesiastical planning and committee work.

In a notable debate in General Synod in 1967 he urged the Church to devote itself to the "improvement and development of the Welfare State... It has Christian roots". He electrified the Synod by describing how families of striking miners were forced to exist on 65.15 a week "by a vindictive administration supporting a hard-faced NCB". He was alert to social injustice in his Midlands industrial parishes and was prepared to come down off the fence in denouncing

them, claiming he spoke "for the ordinary people of this land... very much sheep without a shepherd." His last years were saddened by the rift he allowed to develop be-

tween his thinking and that of women prepared to serve the Church. He was voted out of the Chair of Prolocutor of the York Convocation in 1990. He did not return to the majority in the Church of England and other churches who believed that the bar to the ordination of women should now be lifted.

He found it easier to develop his thinking about society than he did to develop his understanding of the theology of priesthood. It was a surprise that only four years after the ordinations began in 1994 no less than 2,000 women had answered their vocation to be ordained, many serving in the most demanding parishes.

His memory is cherished by many who did not share his views but who respected this hardworking servant of Church and society. Char-



Alert to social injustice

acteristically during his retirement, he set out to gather another degree - in Canon Law.

ALAN WEBSTER

Peter Henry Boulton, priest: born 12 December 1925; ordained deacon 1950, priest 1951; Assistant Curate, Copenhall St Michael, Crewe 1950-51; St Mark Mansfield 1954-55; Vicar, Clipstone Colliery Village, Nottinghamshire 1955-60, St John the Baptist, Carlton 1960-67; Worksop Priory 1967-87; Honorary Canon of Southwell 1975-87; Canon Residentiary of Southwell Minster and Diocesan Director of Education 1987-92 (Emeritus); Prolocutor of York Convocation 1980-90; Chaplain to the Queen 1991-95; married 1955 Barbara Davies (three sons); died Crewe, Cheshire 17 November 1998.

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## Gloria Fuertes

GLORIA FUERTES learned to read and write at the age of three, and as a teenager developed a taste for speaking in rhyming couplets. But it wasn't until her forties that she won recognition as a poet, and not until her sixties that she became the star of a daily television programme in which she told stories to children.

Behind that beaming grandmotherly face and gravelly lorry-driver's voice lay a complex Bohemian character formed in her early childhood. "I was a good girl and slender, tall and somewhat sickly. At nine I was hit by a cart and at 14 I was hit by the war."

Young Gloria used to cycle around Madrid in culottes, a divided skirt designed by her sister, wearing a beret. She bought books on the sly at the Cuesta de Moyano, a picturesque lane that slopes down beside the leafy Retiro park, lined with second-hand bookstalls. She would hide in the cubby-hole where her father worked as a doorman or *porter* to read and write without her mother's knowledge. "My father loved to read, he read the classics and mystical works, the lives of the saints," she recalled in her old age.

At 15 this sensitive soul lost her mother, who had tried in vain to steer her daughter towards a career in dressmaking. She worked as a typist and office secretary and in 1939 at the end of the Spanish Civil War began an association with a children's magazine, *Miravillas*, in which Fuertes created her first character, Coleta, a country girl who moves to the city to work as a nanny.

She explained in her last interview. As a child I learned to write as soon as I could so I could write down everything that occurred to me. I'm doing something else and a sentence comes to me. I write it down and then I look at it. A seed has sprouted. I write every day, not as a discipline, something comes to me and that's it.

Towards the end of the 1940s, Fuertes joined a literary *tertulia* or



Woman with verse in her heart

discussion group called Postismo, a post-war movement tinged with Surrealism among whose heroes was Max Ernst. In 1950 her first book of poems, *La Isla Ignorada* ("The Unknown Island"), was published, although she had written the title work 11 years earlier. In 1952 *Canciones para Niños* ("Songs for Children") appeared, and in 1954 *Antología y poemas del suburbio* ("Anthology and Poems from the Suburb").

Only half her work was directed to children. In the rest, according to Spain's Nobel prizewinner Camilo José Cela, "Gloria Fuertes howled like a wolf mortally wounded. Her verses are full of grief and pain, healing and humane, bitterly sober and maliciously playful."

By 1960 she was running a public library, and won a Fulbright scholarship that took her to the United States where she taught Spanish Literature at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania until 1963. In 1962 another anthology, *Que estás en mi Tierra* ("You Are in My Land") appeared.

Back in Spain she started working in children's television, including the programme that made her name in the 1970s, *Un Globo, Dos Globos, Tres Globos*, ("One Balloon, Two Balloons, Three Balloons") in which Fuertes created her first character, Coleta, a country girl who moves to the city to work as a nanny. She explained in her last interview.

As a child I learned to write as soon as I could so I could write down everything that occurred to me. I'm doing something else and a sentence comes to me. I write it down and then I look at it. A seed has sprouted. I write every day, not as a discipline, something comes to me and that's it.

Fuertes' first feelings improved for her as she got older: "For me all time past was worse and the good thing about the past is that it has passed."

She was, none the less, of a happy disposition, and was surprised by the depression that engulfed her when - a dedicated chain-smoker - she was diagnosed two months ago as suffering from lung cancer.

Some of her couplets hint at inner torment: "If God values a tear more than a prayer, I'll have a throne in heaven". But her dark thoughts were lifted by irony: "I triumphed with my poetry but I wasn't present at my triumph. If I've something better to do, I won't attend my funeral either."

ELIZABETH NASH

Gloria Fuertes, poet and storyteller: born Madrid 28 July 1918; died Madrid 27 November 1998.

BIRTHS  
MARRIAGE  
& DEATH

BIRTHS

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## J. D. Sumner

ALTHOUGH ELVIS Presley was the King of Rock'n'Roll, he was also a leading gospel singer and he won Grammys for his sacred recordings. He was friendly with many gospel musicians and he worked for several years with J.D. Sumner, the deep voice who can be heard prominently on Elvis's posthumous chart-topper, "Way Down". Elvis said on several occasions that Sumner was his favourite gospel singer and when they were together, it was Elvis who was in awe of him.

John Daniel Sumner, nicknamed Jim Dandy or J.D., was born in Lakeland, Florida in 1924. Like so many Southern singers of his generation, he sang in church from an early age, and when his voice broke he became the bass singer with the Sunshine Boys. They often worked in Memphis where Sumner befriended the young Elvis Presley, sneaking him into the concerts when Elvis could not afford the 50 cents admission.

The white gospel music of the day was akin to country music crossed with barbershop quartets. Most of the acts were male quartets featuring four-part harmonies. In 1954 a leading gospel group based in Memphis, the Blackwood Brothers Quartet, lost two members in a plane crash and Sumner joined the group as their bass singer. Elvis had thoughts of joining the group himself and, in 1955, shortly after making his first records, he appeared in a gospel concert with them.

In 1956 the Blackwood Brothers Quartet found national acclaim when they won Arthur Godfrey's television talent show. They were the favourite group of Gladys Presley, Elvis's mother, and they sang at her funeral in 1958. Said Sumner: "I have never seen a man suffer as much or grieve as much as he did at the loss of his mother."

In 1963 James Blackwood purchased a gospel music publishing company from Frank Stamps. The deal included the brand name, the Stamps Quartet, and Sumner developed this, transforming a little-known group into one of America's leading white gospel groups. He also formed the National Quartet Convention, which became the biggest event on the Southern gospel calendar.

Elvis Presley had used a former gospel group, the Jordanaires, on many of his hit recordings. When he returned to live performances in 1968, he hired yet another gospel group, the Imperials, featuring one of his favourite singers, Jake Hess. They left in 1971 following a dispute over pay with Elvis's manager, Colonel Tom Parker.

By 1971, Sumner had had enough success to write his autobiography, *Gospel Music Is My Life*. In it he wrote, "Gospel music was designed by Christian people as a means of reaching the lost. I wouldn't be on the road as much as I am, staying away from my family, if it were not so. If we can inspire people to live better lives, we've performed a ministry."



Sumner (right) backstage with Elvis in Las Vegas in 1974; he was Elvis's favourite gospel singer

Because of his various commitments, Sumner was managing, rather than singing with the Stamps. He was also a notable gospel songwriter and among his compositions are "The Old Country Church", "Crossing Chilly Jordan", "He Means All The World To Me", "Inside The Gate" and "Lord, Teach Me How To Pray". He had a sense of fun and amused audiences with his impression of "the Gooney Bird". Because he was tall (six foot five) and dignified, it was doubly funny to see him running around on stage, and he even released an album of his comedy routines.

death in August 1977 and Sumner's voice can be heard on many recordings including the gospel songs "Help Me" and "Why Me, Lord". On stage, Elvis would often Sumner's voice to a B-52 bomber — and that was a compliment. He looked distinctive with his grey hair and hand cupped over his ear as though he were receiving personal messages from the Saviour. Time and again, Elvis would ask him to repeat low notes.

Elvis relaxed by singing gospel favourites and, fortunately, an impromptu jam session with the Stamps was recorded in 1972. At the end of

Shortly after Elvis's death, Sumner and the Stamps released a tribute album, *Elvis Has Left The Building* (1977), and there were two further albums, *Elvis's Favourite Gospel Songs* (1977) and *Memories Of Our Friend Elvis* (1978). They were nominated for Grammy awards with the albums *Victory Road* (1990) and *Peace In The Valley* (1991) and they were featured on Tammy Wynette's final album, *Inspirational Favourites* (1998).

The group's only UK appearance came when they opened for Jerry Lee Lewis in 1980. They were booked for *Elvis In Concert* at Wembley Arenas in January 1999 in which Elvis's backing musicians and singers will accompany a video of Elvis singing. Elvis, naturally, is irreplaceable but so is Sumner: few singers can hit the lowest G on the piano. He is included in *The Guinness Book of Records* as the world's lowest bass singer.

Sumner was inducted into the Gospel Hall of Fame as an individual in 1983 and with the Stamps earlier this year. He died while he was touring. As he said in his autobiography, "Gospel music is more than standing on a stage or a way to make a living. Gospel music is my life."

SPENCER LEIGH

John Daniel Sumner, singer: born Lakeland, Florida 19 November 1924; married (two daughters); died Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 15 November 1998.

**'Gospel music is a means of reaching the lost. If we can inspire people to live better lives, we've performed a ministry'**

Elvis heard a record by the Stamps, liked it very much, and invited the group to join him on stage — if Summer was singing with them. "I want your '56 endings," he told him. By this, he meant the way that Summer would run down the scale and bottom out on the lowest note he could hit.

Summer agreed and the Stamps Quartet joined Elvis in November 1971. Their regular bass singer, Richard Stoen, soon left to join the Oak Ridge Boys. The Stamps worked for Elvis until his

"Nearer My God To Thee", Elvis says, "I was singing bass, but J.D. covered me up. He wiped me out."

After Elvis's death, Summer often gave interviews and spoke at Presley conventions. He always stressed the positive side of Presley's personality and never admitted that Elvis took anything other than prescription drugs. He acknowledged his employer's generosity and indeed, Elvis gave him a Lincoln automobile, a silver watch and a \$40.00 diamond ring.

SPENCER LEIGH

John Daniel Sumner, singer: born Lakeland, Florida 19 November 1924; married (two daughters); died Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 15 November 1998.

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

**HORLICK**: Georgina Suzanne Louise, on 27 November at Great Ormond Street Hospital, aged 12 years, dearly loved daughter of Tim and Nicola and darling sister of Alice, Serena, Rupert and Antonia. Funeral service to be at St Paul's Church, Queen's Gate, London SW7 on Thursday 2 December at 11am. No flowers please. Donations to REACH Fund, Great Ormond Street Hospital.

**WHITE**: Dorothy Marian, OBE. Dearly loved wife of John and mother of Jonathan, Kevin and Richard, died on 26 November at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead. Funeral service for family and friends tomorrow at 11am. Relatives Association at 51 Taplow Place, London WC1H 9SN. A Memorial Service will be held early in the new year — to be announced.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

The OBITUARIES e-mail address is [obituaries@independent.co.uk](mailto:obituaries@independent.co.uk)

#### BIRTHDAYS

1897: Mary Martin, actress and singer, 1913.

Deaths: Henry I, King, 1135; Blanche of Castile, wife of King Louis VIII of France, 1252; Lorenzo Ghiberti, sculptor, 1455; Pope Leo X, 1521; St Edmund Campion, St Alexander Briant and St Ralph Sherwin, Jesuit martyrs, executed 1581; Thomas Weelkes, composer, buried 1623; Susannah Centlivre (Freeman), playwright and actress, 1723; Alexander I, Tsar of Russia, 1825; Dr George Birkbeck, founder of Birkbeck College, 1841; Ebenezer Elliott, poet and "anti-Corn Law Rhymer", 1849; Henry William Banks Davis, painter, 1914; Leopold Count von Kalckreuth, painter, 1928; Paul-Marie Théodore-Vincent d'Indy, composer, 1931; Samuel Courtauld, industrialist, 1947; Ernest John Moeran, composer, 1950; Sir Peter Henry Buck (Te Rangi Hiroa), Maori anthropologist and statesman, 1951; John Burton Sanderson Haldane, scientist, 1964; David Ben Gurion, Israeli statesman, 1973; Stéphane Grappelli, musician and jazz violinist, 1997.

On this day: Portugal became independent of Spain, 1640; the Royal Academy of Arts was founded, 1768; Jacques-Alexandre César Charles made the first ascent in a hydrogen-filled balloon, France, 1783; Iceland became a sovereign state, but with the same monarch as Denmark, 1918; Lady Nancy Astor became the first woman to have her seat in the House of Commons as an MP, 1919; the Beveridge Report on social security was published, 1942; Lord and Lady Jellicoe; Lord Petty.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Anna Comnena, Byzantine princess and historian, 1083; John Keill, philosopher and mathematician, 1671; Madame Marie Tussaud (Groszholz), wax-work exhibitor (Groszholz), 1766; Queen Alexandra, consort of Edward VII, 1844; Ray Henderson, composer and producer, 1896; Helen de Guerry Simpson, novelist, 1901.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh: The President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Frau Herzog pay a State Visit. The Queen Mother visits the Royal Smithfield Show at Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London SW5. The Duke of York attends the commissioning of the Channel Tunnel, thus linking the two coasts for the first time, 1990.

Today is the Feast Day of St Agapitus or Agy, St Alexander Briant, St Ananias, St Edmund Campion, St Eligius or Eloy, St Ralph Sherwin and St Tudwal.

#### MARIUS GORING

A memorial service in celebration of the life of Marius Goring CBE FRSL will be held at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, at noon on Thursday 14 January 1999.

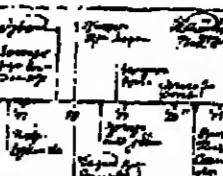
#### ROYAL SOCIETY

Sir Aaron Klug, President, presided at the annual meeting of the Royal Society held yesterday at Carlton House Terrace, London SW1, to mark the 338th Anniversary of the founding of the Society. He presented the Society's medals, awards and prizes for scientific excellence and gave the Anniversary Address. A reception was held afterwards. Among those present were:

Lady Khu; Sir Eric Ash, Treasurer; and Lady Ash; Professor J.S. Rawlinson, Physical Secretary, and Dr. R. H. Williams, Honorary Secretary; and M. B. Bateson, Professor and Mrs. R. B. Kepp, Lord and Lady Runcie; Lord and Lady Jellicoe; Lord Petty.

#### LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Mirrors (ii): Self-portraits by Lucian Freud", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Diana Perry Aldrich, "The Renaissance Architectural Interior", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Edwin Aitken, "England for Ever: the work of John Constable", 1pm. Wallace Collection, London W1: Rosalind Savill, "The Herfurds as Collectors of Sévres Porcelain", 1pm. University College London, Gower St, London WC1: Dr Alison Wright, "Design, Invention and New Subject Matter in 15th-century Florentine Art", 1.15pm. Exeter University: Professor David Braund, "Insiders and Outsiders: Ancient Greece, Rome and the Caucasus", 1.15pm.



#### HISTORICAL NOTES

MICHAEL CUMMING

## A bombing system born of daydreams

CRUISE MISSILES, smart bombs, underwater launching and infra-red bombing devices — what would the boys in RAF Bomber Command have made of all these mind-boggling goodies when making their way to their designated targets in the dark days and darker nights of the Second World War?

To those flyers, perhaps more than to most people today, post-war inventive genius is beyond belief.

Much has been made of the implementation and the results of the so-called "area bombing" when huge areas were laid to waste in massive air raids on German cities, carried out with a not insignificant loss of life by the heavy bombers in Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Harris's command, each plane with six or seven men aboard. It is necessary, this loss of life in the air, this destruction and slaughter on the ground?

Even now the arguments rage, but there is one dimension which is only now being considered with the emergence of more information about Oboe. The ground-controlled, blind-bombing system which was developed by scientists at the Telecommunications Research Establishment — originally based at Worth Matravers near Swanage and subsequently at Malvern.

Oboe was the brainchild of Alec Reeves, whose boss at the time, TRE Superintendent A.P. Rowe, later wrote

that it had been "born and bred from daydreams". Helping turn Reeves' ideas into reality was Dr EE Jones and a small team known formally within TRE as Group 4 and more usually as the Oboe group.

Oboe was unrivalled as a means of pinpointing a target, even when it was obscured by a total blanket of cloud. Most times it was the two-man, fast and high-flying, unarmed Mosquito which used Oboe.

Its pilot being guided towards the target by dot-dot signals in his headphones and the navigator receiving signals of his own which instructed the very moment when he must release his bright-burning, target-indicator flares. Thus, crews in the heavy bombers in their wake would be in no doubt as to the location of the target area and their own aiming point within it.

Such was the precision of Oboe, in which one ground station controlled the aircraft's track and another gave the release information, that if a crew was judged to be as much as 300 yards off-target, it was back to school again! Time after time the Oboe crews would be "spot on" in positioning their target indicators. When groups of Oboe air crew and ground personnel meet these days, some wonder why it was judged more necessary to risk so many crews in heavy bombers on "area bombing" when Oboe was on hand to pinpoint strategic targets.

Michael Cumming is the author of *'Beam Bombers'* (Sutton, £19.99)

## No immunity for unacceptable conduct

### TUESDAY LAW REPORT

1 DECEMBER 1998

Regina v Bartle and others, ex parte Pinochet; Regina v Evans and others, ex parte Pinochet

House of Lords  
(Lord Lynn of Hadley; Lord Lloyd of Berwick; Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead; Lord Steyn and Lord Hoffmann)  
25 November 1998

The charges against the applicant were torture, contrary to section 134(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, and hostage-taking, contrary to section 1 of the Taking of Hostages Act 1982. It was conceded that both offences were extradition crimes within the meaning of the Extradition Act.

The Divisional Court quashed the warrant on the ground that the applicant was head of state at the time of the alleged offences and that he was, therefore, entitled to immunity from the criminal processes of the English courts. The court certified, as a question of law of general public importance, "the proper interpretation and scope of the immunity enjoyed by a former head of state from arrest and extradition proceedings in the United Kingdom in respect of acts committed while he was head of state".

Alan Jones QC, Professor Christopher Greenwood, James

Those immunities included, under article 31, "immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the receiving state". Accordingly there could be no doubt that if the applicant had still been head of the Chilean state, he would have been entitled to immunity.

Whether he continued to enjoy immunity after ceasing to be head of state turned upon the proper interpretation of article 33.2 of the convention, which provided, in effect, that a former head of state should continue to enjoy immunity with respect to acts performed by him in the exercise of his functions as head of state.

The crucial question was whether the acts of torture and hostage-taking charged against the applicant were done in the exercise of his functions as head of state.

Whilst recognising that the functions of a head of state might include activities which were wrongful, even illegal, by the law of his own or other states, international law had made plain that certain types of conduct, including torture and hostage-taking, were not acceptable conduct on the part of anyone. That applied as much to heads of state, or even more so, as it did to everyone else: the contrary conclusion would make a mockery of international law.

KATE O'HANLON  
Barrister

AN ANONYMOUS piece in *The Grocer* magazine reported last week that a round-the-clock "c-store" will soon open on the Strand. It will contain a refreshment area — a tonic for the area's myriad homeless — and will have a "small ambient grocery section". Presumably it is the section that is *ambient*, but

the store? In which case it is neither a section nor small.

The OED notes that as an epithet of the air, "it is often ignorantly put for 'limpid', or otherwise misused", and one suspects that *The Grocer* mistook the 'bien' part of the word for the French. So perhaps it is the grocery, then, spread about

# The waiter who won't get out of bed for less than £1,000 (and other ways to milk the Millennium)

BY HETTIE JUDAH

There may be more than 12 months to go before midnight on 31 December 1999 but if you haven't already been invited to the party to end all parties, let's face it, you won't be. There is, however, an alternative to staying in, watching television and inventing resolutions for the next millennium. You could go to work.

Rates for clocking in on New Year's Eve start at £1,000 per shift. Instead of an excuse for morbid nosalgia, the evening could be a grand step into a brighter future. Start the next century as you mean to go on: sober with a happy bank balance.

For once the market is in the hands of the underdogs: waitresses and bar staff, child-minders and taxi drivers. These are the people without whom all celebrations will be impossible.

The problem for employers is that because so few people want to work, the rates are going up and up. "There will be a huge shortage of waiters and waitresses," confirmed AM & PM Catering. "We have accepted just one job from a regular client, but it wouldn't surprise me if they end up paying £1,000 per head for the waiting staff."

Prices quoted elsewhere range from £600 to £1,500, but most acknowledge £1,000 to be the starting-point. Many companies, such as Crown Society Events, are being forced to turn down offers.

At least working as a waiter will allow you to be at a party, even if it is not your own, which must be an improvement on seeing the New Year in with a gang of unsympathetic toddlers. For every mum and dad who go out to a party, someone will be left holding the baby.

Hope & Dreams, which runs a babysitting agency and a children's hotel, is setting its sights on a mod-

est triple-time pay rise, to about £24 an hour. Childminders, the world's largest babysitting agency, will be publishing its official rates in April, but estimates between £40 and £50 an hour for that evening. "We can only give rough estimates," says Aunt Jessica Cares, which provides qualified nannies. Current quotes hover around £500 a day, 10 times the usual rate. Come New Year there will be a vast shortage of reliable babysitters; some highly paid female executives are already toying with the idea of running one-off creche facilities for friends.

If the company of other people's children is just too hideous to contemplate, perhaps the prospect of ferrying drunken revellers around town is more attractive. Last week there were news stories suggesting that London will have no public

For once the market is in the hands of the underdogs – from barbers to babysitters

transport; drivers are apparently demanding astronomical sums before London Transport can even start planning a scheme to run the Tube all night. There were even rumours that the whole network could grind to a halt if the staff "phoned in sick en masse". A union spokesman was more reassuring. "Providing the right money is offered, people who have agreed to work that night will do so." And what is this crazy figure that the drivers are hoping for? "The preliminary demand was £500 and a week off."

"Trying to find a taxi is always hard over Christmas; on New Year's Eve it could be impossible. News of the Millennium Bug has struck terror into the financial capitals of the world, and one of the greatest fears is that there won't be enough computer nerds to go round. If you never finished that IT course at college, now is the time to put the Sputolite back to your spectacles, don your fighting anorak and try again: there is a fortune out there just waiting to be made. Returns are already quoting £200 an hour for anyone working as a Glob-



Cheque, please! Restaurant staff will be able to name their price on the busiest night of the year TEL

al programmer this summer; closer to the time it could go as high as £300. Sally Woodcock of The Final Think suggests this could be too conservative. "They should be able to command any price they want at that point, if people are panicking. Currently call-out is £1,000 a day; the closer you get to the deadline the higher the rate will be."

If the closest you come to technological wizardry is twiddling with the knobs on your stereo, fear not.

The prospect of a good knees-up would disappear without a fully paid up smoothie spinning the sounds. And fully paid they will surely be. A1 Discos will be paying

its DJs between £800 and £1,500 for a five-hour set, depending on the venue and location, compared with an average £200 for a gig at any other time. Absolutely Fab, which also books DJs, has already taken a number of calls and quotes "anything between £1,000 and £3,000".

Meanwhile the bouncers are looking at £50 an hour as opposed to their usual rate of £4.

Famous DJs with a couple of hit singles, a decent reputation in Ibiza and eggs the size of Wales can name their price to mastermind the gig of a lifetime. One promoter suggests that for a premier-league dance DJ the bidding would probably start at £20,000. The cream of the crop, such as Paul Oakenfold, Goldie and Norman Cook (aka Fat Boy Slim) are represented by David Levy. "I do not discuss my clients' fees," he comments coyly. "But I can promise you it will be more than you could possibly imagine."

To go any higher, you need magic on your side; the prize for Extraordinary Offer of the Millennium So Far goes to Paul Zenon, an amiable young chap from Brighton with a talent for close-up trickery, seen last week on the Comedy Lab plying his trade on the streets of Soho. Zenon has been offered a millennium gig in Las Vegas. His fee? \$150,000.

## CLASSIFIED

## Legal Notices

## No. 006557 of 1998

## IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION  
COMPANIES COURTIN THE MATTER OF WORLD AVIATION SUPPORT LIMITED  
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1986

## NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was filed on the 16th day of November 1998, presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above named Company from £1,000,000 to £900,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

## AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on Wednesday the 9th December 1998.

## ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

## A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

## Dated this 1st day of December 1998

## Messrs Maxwell Bailey

## 27 Chancery Lane

## London WC2A 1PA

## (Solicitors for the above named Company)

## (Ref: 65)

## IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

## No. 006558 of 1998

## IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION  
COMPANIES COURT

## IN THE MATTER OF BRITISH WORLD AIRLINES LIMITED

## AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1986

## NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 16th day of November 1998 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above named Company from £10,000,000 to £4,507,000 by the cancellation of £4,055,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

## AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on Wednesday the 9th December 1998.

## ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

## A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

## Dated this 1st day of December 1998

## Messrs Maxwell Bailey

## 27 Chancery Lane

## London WC2A 1PA

## (Solicitors for the above named Company)

## (Ref: 66)

## IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

## No. 006559 of 1998

## IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION  
COMPANIES COURT

## IN THE MATTER OF BRITISH WORLD AIRLINES LIMITED

## AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1986

## NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was filed on the 16th day of November 1998, presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above named Company from £10,000,000 to £4,507,000 by the cancellation of £4,055,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

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## Dated this 1st day of December 1998

## Messrs Maxwell Bailey

## 27 Chancery Lane

## London WC2A 1PA

## (Solicitors for the above named Company)

## (Ref: 67)

## No. 006556 of 1998

## IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION  
COMPANIES COURTIN THE MATTER OF BRITISH WORLD AIRLINES LIMITED  
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1986

## NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was filed on the 16th day of November 1998, presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above named Company from £10,000,000 to £4,507,000 by the cancellation of £4,055,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

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## Dated this 1st day of December 1998

## Messrs Maxwell Bailey

## 27 Chancery Lane

## London WC2A 1PA

## (Solicitors for the above named Company)

## (Ref: 68)

## IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

## No. 006555 of 1998

## IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION  
COMPANIES COURT

## IN THE MATTER OF BRITISH WORLD AIRLINES LIMITED

## AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1986

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## 27 Chancery Lane

## London WC2A 1PA

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# How we destroyed Sukarno

Foreign Office 'dirty tricks' helped overthrow Indonesia's President Sukarno in 1966. Over the next 30 years, half a million people died.

By Paul Lashmar and James Oliver

In autumn 1965, Norman Reddaway, a lean and erudite rising star of the Foreign Office, was briefed for a special mission. The British Ambassador to Indonesia, Sir Andrew Gilchrist, had just visited London for discussions with the head of the Foreign Office, Joe Garner. Covert operations to undermine Sukarno, the troublesome and independently minded President of Indonesia, were not going well. Garner was persuaded to send Reddaway the FO's propaganda expert, to Indonesia. His task to take on anti-Sukarno propaganda operations run by the Foreign Office and MI6. Garner gave Reddaway £100,000 in cash "to do anything I could do to get rid of Sukarno", he says.

Reddaway thus joined the loose amalgam of groups from the Foreign Office, MI6, the State Department and the CIA in the Far East, all striving to depose Sukarno in diffuse and devious ways. For the next six months he and his colleagues chipped away at Sukarno's regime, undermining his reputation and assisting his enemies in the army. By March 1966 Sukarno's power base was in tatters and he was forced to hand over his presidential authority to General Suharto, the head of the army, who was already running a campaign of mass murder against alleged communists.

According to Reddaway, the overthrow of Sukarno was one of the Foreign Office's "most successful" coups, which they have kept a secret until now. The British intervention in Indonesia, alongside complementary CIA operations, shows how far the Foreign Office was prepared to go in intervening in other countries' affairs during the Cold War. Indonesia was important both economically and strategically. In 1962 the US noted that if Indonesia fell out of Western influence, neighbours such as Malaya might follow, resulting in the loss of the "principal world source of natural rubber and tin and a producer of petroleum and other strategically important commodities".

The Japanese occupation during the Second World War, which to the Indonesians amounted to another period of colonial rule, had revitalised the nationalist movement which, after the war, declared independence and assumed power. Ahmed Sukarno became Indonesia's first president. Western concern regarding Sukarno's regime grew owing to the strength of the Indo-

nesian communist party, the PKI, which at its peak had a membership of over 10 million, the largest communist party in the non-communist world. Concerns were not allayed by Sukarno's internal and external policies, including nationalising Western assets and a governmental role for the PKI.

By the early Sixties Sukarno had become a major thorn in the side of both the British and the Americans. They believed there was a real danger that Indonesia would fall to the communists. To balance the army's growing power, Sukarno aligned himself closer to the PKI.

The first indication of British interest in removing Sukarno appears in a CIA memorandum of 1962. Prime Minister Macmillan and President Kennedy agreed to "liquidate President Sukarno, depending on the situation and available opportunities".

Hostility to Sukarno was intensified by Indonesian objections to the Malaysian Federation. Sukarno complained the project was "a neo-colonial plot, pointing out that the Federation was a project for Malayan expansionism and continuing British influence in the region".

In 1963 his objections crystallised in his policy of Konfrontasi, a breaking off of all relations with Malaysia, soon coupled with low-level military intervention. A protracted border war began along the 700-mile-long front in Borneo.

According to Reddaway, the overthrow of Sukarno was one of the Foreign Office's "most successful" coups, which they have kept a secret until now. The British intervention in Indonesia, alongside complementary CIA operations, shows how far the Foreign Office was prepared to go in intervening in other countries' affairs during the Cold War. Indonesia was important both economically and strategically. In 1962 the US noted that if Indonesia fell out of Western influence, neighbours such as Malaya might follow, resulting in the loss of the "principal world source of natural rubber and tin and a producer of petroleum and other strategically important commodities".

The Japanese occupation during the Second World War, which to the Indonesians amounted to another period of colonial rule, had revitalised the nationalist movement which, after the war, declared independence and assumed power. Ahmed Sukarno became Indonesia's first president. Western concern regarding Sukarno's regime grew owing to the strength of the Indo-

duct an anti-communist propaganda war against the Soviets, but had swiftly become enlisted in various anti-independence movement operations in the declining British Empire. By the Sixties, IRD had a staff of around 400 in London and information officers around the world emphasising media coverage in areas of British interest.

According to Roland Challis, the BBC correspondent at the time in Singapore, journalists were open to manipulation by IRD, owing, ironically, to Sukarno's own policies. "In a curious way, by keeping correspondents out of the country Sukarno made them the victims of official channels, because almost the only information you could get was from the British ambassador in Jakarta." The opportunity to isolate Sukarno and the PKI came in October 1965 when an alleged PKI coup attempt was the pretext for the army to sideline Sukarno and eradicate the PKI. Who exactly instigated

the coup and for what purposes remains a matter of speculation. However, within days the coup had been crushed and the army was firmly in control. Suharto accused the PKI of being behind the coup, and set about suppressing them.

Following the attempted coup Britain set about exploiting the situation. On 5 October, Alec Adams, political adviser to the Commander-in-Chief, Far East, advised the Foreign Office: "We should have no hesitation in doing what we can to re-ignite the PKI in the eyes of the army and the people of Indonesia." The Foreign Office agreed and suggested "suitable propaganda themes" such as PKI atrocities and Chinese intervention.

One of the main themes pursued by IRD was the threat posed by the PKI and "Chinese communists". Newspaper reports continually emphasised the danger of the PKI. Drawing upon their experience in Malaya in the Fifties, the British

had to have done to incite the Indonesians to rise and slaughter the Chinese."

But it was the involvement of Sukarno with the PKI in the bloody months following the coup that was to be the British trump card. According to Reddaway: "The communist leader Airdit went on the run and Sukarno, being a great politician, went to the front of the palace and said that the communist leader Airdit must be hunted down and brought to justice. From the side door of the palace, he was dealing with him every day by courier."

This information was revealed by the signal intelligence of Britain's GCHQ. The Indonesians didn't have a clue about radio silence and this double-dealing was picked up by GCHQ; the British had its main eavesdropping base in Hong Kong tuned in events in Indonesia.

The discrediting of Sukarno was of fundamental importance. Sukarno remained a respected and popular

leader against whom Suharto could not move openly until the conditions were right. The constant barrage of had international coverage and Sukarno's plummeting political position fatally undermined him. On 10 March 1966, Sukarno was forced to sign over his powers to General Suharto. Now perceived as closely associated with the attempted coup and the PKI, Sukarno had been discredited to the point where the army felt able to act. The PKI was eliminated as a significant force and a pro-Western military dictatorship firmly established.

It was not long before Suharto quietly ended the inactive policy of Konfrontasi resulting in a swift improvement in Anglo-Indonesian relations, which continue to be close to this day.

From: 'Britain's Secret Propaganda War 1948-77', by Paul Lashmar and James Oliver. To be published by Sutton on 7 December.



President Sukarno (above) inspecting his troops in October 1965. Norman Reddaway (below), propaganda expert of the Foreign Office

Hulton Getty

Rachael says she's living in a slum. Unfortunately no one else has noticed. By Cayte Williams

## Calling time on the landlord

**RACHAEL**  
studying  
Art History

THESE ARE three things that plague students through college: essays, money and landlords. On the subject of accommodation, the students fall into two camps: Students Who Will Fight The Landlord and those who just pay the rent and accept the damp and crumbling cornices. In the Manchester household, Rachael falls into the first category. And it looks like she's on her own. It's not that the other eight have abandoned her in the quest for decent housing. It's just that it's not a priority.

The students signed the lease, thereby agreeing to spend the bulk of their grants on rent. The landlord agreed to make many improvements, most of which never got done. After essentials - an alarm system and ground-floor window bars - were installed, the other eight members of the house resigned themselves to the damp squalor but Rachael could smell a rat. Not that the house has rodents, but her rip-off detector was going full tilt.

"The things that are wrong with the house affect your health," she explains. "Like the damp and the rotting windows. The carpet was so wet in David's room that mushrooms were growing there, and there were leaks and drips everywhere." Rachael pointed all this out to the landlord. "There was this huge damp patch on the wall which he said was darker

**THIS  
STUDENT  
LIFE**



### WEEK 6 AT THE MANCHESTER STUDENT HOUSE

because it was new plaster," she says. "Basically, he was laying rubbish."

Rachael is not one to take these things lightly. This is the girl who went on a New Zealand holiday when she was 18 and ended up DJing on a local radio station, and for whom bungee-jumping is a nice way to pass the time. She's not scared of a little landlord argy-bargy.

"I got fed up with living in a skuddy house like this," she explains. "The landlord is getting £15,000 a year out of us and he's done nothing

in return. So I called the council, and an environmental health officer came to the house. He went through what repairs needed to be done for us to live in a decent house."

Everyone was rather surprised by the environmental health officer's far-reaching findings. Among 15 or so problems, he said that the kitchen on the top floor should be ripped out because it was a fire hazard. "It should have had free access," explains Rachael. "Otherwise it was a danger."

However, Rosie is hacked off with the changes. She's got a kitchen next to her room which she was happily using for storage space. "Rachael and Dani may have to use my kitchen now they don't have one and my storage is back all over my room again. Everything's all over the place."

Rachael is undeterred. "The environmental officer is a professional and if he says there is something wrong, then there is something wrong."

Since the landlord found out about the council man, she has been harassed by his sidekick who yells abuse whenever he comes around to do the enforced repairs. "I won't let somebody bully us," she says defiantly, but the others are feeling the strain.

"I quite like the landlord," says Tash. "But be and Rachael have been at each other's throats."

The crisis is starting to escalate. "There's been an exchange of nasty letters," Tash continues. "In the past, if you hadn't paid your rent on the first of the month, the landlord would have been fine with it, but now we've got this nasty letter saying pay on the first or else. And he gave us a letter which said he was going to come around and do monthly checks on the house."

"When you see the list of things wrong with the house that the council sent us, it really opens your eyes, because I wouldn't have bothered to do anything about it. This is a student house, it's not your house at home. You try and make it as homely as you can, but there's no point being concerned about it because we won't be here in 12 months."

"The girl has got a point, but as Rachael would say, 'It's the principle of the thing.'"

Mention the house situation to the others, and they shrug their shoulders. Nobody is blaming Rachael for getting the council involved, but you can sense a tension in the air that wasn't there before. Will the landlord make everyone's life a misery because Rachael wanted to make a point? Or is Rachael doing the right thing and making the landlord work for his money? Who knows - but only time will tell whether they've got a Rigsby collecting their rent or not.

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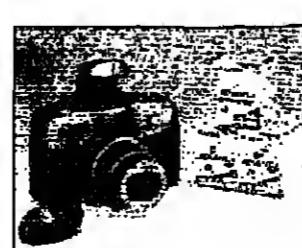
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System

# To play the queen

Antony Sher – actor, writer, painter. All round renaissance man, in fact. And now he is interested in the stuff of souls. In particular, the soul of Shakespeare's great Egyptian lover. *Antony is Cleopatra*. By David Lister

**A**ntony Sher was on his way to the psychiatrist when I met him. He was to tell me later that the Shakespearean role he still most wants to play on stage is Cleopatra. But it was not to discuss this that he was seeing a shrink. The day before he had been to see the neurologist.

At 49, Sher should be a contented man. His new novel *The Feast* seems sure to confirm his status as a writer. A surreal political thriller set in East Africa, it is by turns chilling and moving and shows a fevered imagination at work.

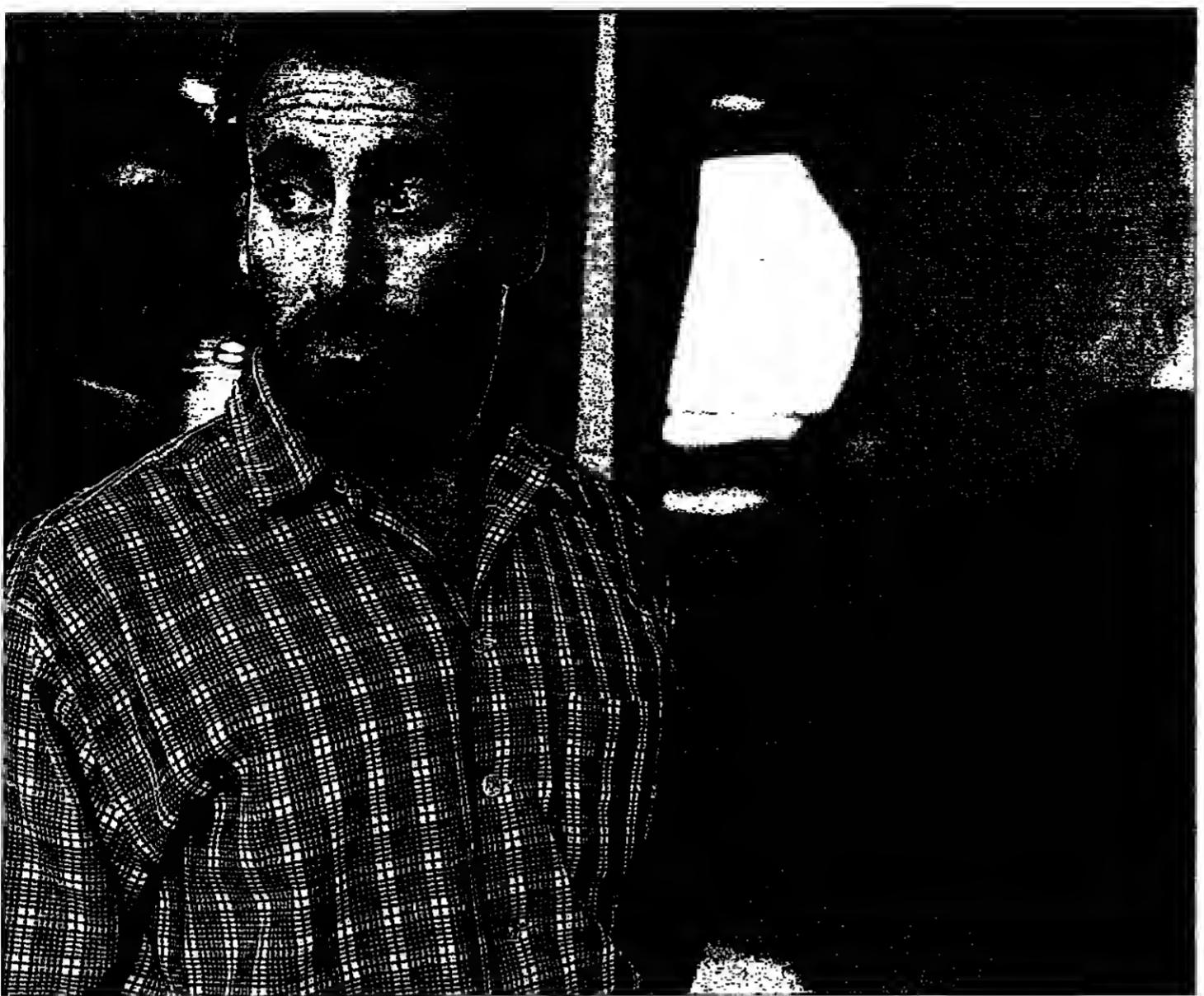
And the day job is about to take a new turn. It is curious that Sher's name always springs to mind as one of our great Shakespearean actors. But he has actually only played five Shakespearean roles and not one of the great tragic heroes. His sixth will be Leontes in the RSC's new production of *The Winter's Tale*. And it is so that he can learn more about the King of Sicilia's irrational jealousy in this late "problem" play that he is consulting psychiatrists and neurologists.

The production, which starts in Stratford and then transfers to the Barbican, is directed by Sher's partner and RSC associate director Greg Doran. Sher talks in matter of fact terms about a normal, loving relationship complete with its rock-solid dependency and its tantrums.

"The worst aspect of being directed by Greg," he says, "is that we lose our best friend. We lose the person that you come home to and say I had a shitty day at rehearsal, or the director's driving me crazy. So home life is quite strange. We're not allowed to talk about it unless one of us assents. The first time we worked together was on *Titus Andronicus* and there were literally flying plates."

It is hard to imagine Sher throwing anything. Shy at first, thoughtful and serious, he is more interested in engaging in genuine conversation than in answering a set of questions. And as he begins to relax, he reveals a refreshingly irreverent political incorrectness. It's intriguing to meet him at a moment when he appears to be reassessing his life, his self-esteem, and even his whole acting style.

"I spent a lot of years trying not to be who I am," he says, "be it sexually, or Jewish, or white south African because I don't want to conform."



Antony Sher: The kind of acting that excites me and moves me is mostly from females.'

in the market in minority groups in that way. Now I've not just come to terms with it, I've learned to love those aspects of who I am. And it's stupid to pretend that Africa isn't very powerful in my blood."

Some of his guilt feelings in the past arose because he never left South Africa out of distaste for apartheid. It was a career move, to go to drama school in England. "No, there was nothing heroic. I wasn't remotely aware of apartheid until I left. People find that hard to believe. But life was so good and comfortable.

And my family was so apolitical.

I wondered if this was based on a relationship in his own life.

"No, I don't have a godchild. I'm

in love with Africa again, entranced even by its violence, decadence and comedy. Its protagonist is Felix, who runs a large, run-down theatre somewhere in East Africa. Returning home from America after a spell in rehab, the world seems to have gone mad; he is now sober but the rest of the world is drunk."

But there is tenderness too, particularly in the relationship between Felix and his goddaughter. As Sher claims unfashionably that all fiction is to some degree autobiographical, I wondered if this was based on a relationship in his own life.

not actually that comfortable with kids at all. I'd be a terrible father because I'm so selfish, so self-absorbed. I'm so busy that there's just space in my life for a big, solid relationship, which I have."

So he doesn't miss children?

"No, I sometimes think there's this strange thing that a lot of other people seem to do. I wonder what that must be like. I feel curious about it, but no sort of gut feeling." He considers this for a moment, then asks: "Have you got children? They must be terribly time consuming?"

Sher's late father was a businessman who exported hides. He saw little of his son, an experience

repeated, even were he able to choose to do so. "To write and to paint I'd have to lock myself away and then I'd be an awful father. And my father was very remote father who was passionate about his work, and in that period in South Africa had virtually nothing to do with us kids. My mother didn't really either because there were maids and servants to look after the children..."

"But I loved writing that relationship in the book because I really enjoyed imagining that, and that relationship, an island of the tenderness very important to the story because the story is so black and vi-

olent. No, not black... dark, I must be careful. Political correctness."

Sher is equally cynical about political correctness in the theatre. Bravely, for a white South African, he agrees that it is time to end the bar on white actors playing Othello. "Iago's more my part but I think it's a terrible shame that all the great actors aren't given their Othello. It's tragic, and it's ludicrous really. Why should I, who's not heterosexual, be allowed to play Leontes? Why should we be allowed to claim the souls of different people, yet when it comes to skin colour... it's absurd."

This phrase about claiming the soul is one Sher chooses carefully. And it is not a phrase he would probably associate with his most famous and highly technical performances, such as his high-energy Richard the Third on crutches, in which the emphasis is less on seeking the soul of a part than in techniques of disguise and impersonation.

His change in approach is, he says, "a conversion that I've had. When I started out as an actor my heroes were Olivier and Peter Sellers and Alec Guinness, the great disguise merchants. And I'm not interested in that at all any more. The kind of acting that excites me and moves me is mostly from females: Judi Dench, Fiona Shaw, Vanessa Redgrave, Michael Gambon at his best does that well."

The search for the soul of Leontes has led him from the rehearsal room to the consulting room. "It's really interesting to try and track down what condition he might have. Here is a man clearly imagining his wife having an affair and bringing terrible destruction to him and his family as a result. He stops being able to sleep, he hallucinates, his speech is extraordinarily fractured and it's just the most wonderful case history to build up."

Seeking the soul of a character has also led to a request that is the strangest that RSC artistic director Adrian Noble has ever received. Sher explains: "I've asked Adrian if I could play Cleopatra. It would have been played originally by a chap. Adrian said that if he allowed me to do that he would be lynched by about a dozen leading actresses. But it's a wonderful part. Antony bores me rigid."

"*The Feast*" is published by Little, Brown, price £16.99. *"The Winter's Tale"* opens in Stratford-upon-Avon on 10 December (01789 295623).

## Space not the place

**POP**  
**SPACE**  
BRIXTON ACADEMY  
LONDON

ONE OF the drawbacks of being in a cartoon band is that, for the band members, the joke begins to wear thin. It is Space's lyrical surrealism and permanently raised eyebrows that caused them to stand out against their gloomy contemporaries two years ago, but the skewed humour that they so effortlessly relay in the studio was severely lacking at Brixton Academy on Friday night.

Compounded by the venue's notorious PA system, Tommy Scott's vocals came over as a muffled whine, while the soft-rock histrionics of guitarist and vocalist Jamie Murphy would have fitted a Dire Straits gig.

Space date from 1984, though fame and fortune eluded them until 1996 when their eerie "Female of the Species" suddenly shifted a million copies. If Space's knowingness has been part of their act all that time, their listlessness is hardly surprising.

One of the tragically few high points of the evening came with the arrival of Catalonia's Cerys Matthews, albeit on a video backdrop, for their celebrated joint-rendering of "The Ballad of Tom Jones". Unlike Scott, her pleasingly chafing voice wasn't drowned out by Murphy's pompous fretwork, while the starting line: "I want to cut off your nuts" provided ribald amusement among the swaths of lager-swilling lads in the crowd.

But the lounge-lizard crooning, the sunny splashes of reggae and the rousing string arrangements of Space's album *Tin Planet* were sorely missed and Scott seemed strangely subdued. One would expect such a relentlessly wacky band to be bursting with Jarvis-like inter-song witlessness. But the only time that Scott spoke up was to shout, "Prince Charles is a tit, don't you think?", but he failed to elucidate any further.

You longed for the vaudeville of their recorded material, but though Scott climbed the balustrades during "Neighbourhood", and clambered over the DJ box during "We've Got To Get Out Of This Place", they lacked passion and precision.

Considering their catastrophic world tour in 1997, during which Murphy had a breakdown and drummer Andy Perle suffered from nervous exhaustion, it is a wonder that Space are playing at all. They managed to produce a classy album, but as a live act, it seems that Space are burnt out.

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# He who lives by the score



Elmer Bernstein has written some of the most famous film scores in history, not least those for *The Great Escape* and *The Magnificent Seven*. But what exactly is it that makes soundtrack music great? If anyone knows, Elmer will know. By Geoffrey Macnab

**N**o, Elmer Bernstein confides, he does not burn the soundtracks to his own movies. The 76-year-old composer is responsible for some of the most catchy melodies in film history. His themes for *The Magnificent Seven* and *The Great Escape* are whistled the world over. He has scored over 200 films, from *To Kill A Mockingbird* to *Cape Fear*, but it is not necessarily his own work which gnaws away at him in his private moments. "My *bête noire* is an album by my daughter, who is a songwriter. I just can't get it out of my head."

Bernstein was in Belgium recently to give a concert at the Flanders Film Festival, "a mélange of music from *The Age Of Innocence* and *The Magnificent Seven*," he explains. His most recent movie, *Twilight*, starring Paul Newman and Susan Sarandon, is released this week. Last month, he also recorded an album of film songs with Neil Diamond. Several new features are also pencilled in on the horizon.

New York-born, he is nicknamed Bernstein West - as in West Coast and Hollywood - to distinguish him from his namesake, Leonard Bernstein, who was known as Bernstein East. A former student of Aaron Copland, he was grey-listed in the McCarthy era, which meant that in the early Fifties he was scoring B-movies such as *Robot Monster* and *Cat Women Of The Moon*. His music for Otto Preminger's *The Man With The Golden Arm* (1956) marked him out as the most distinctive film composer of his generation. Since then, he has been Oscar-nominated 13 times.

He won't be drawn on what constitutes the perfect movie score but his views on certain key scores reveals much about what makes a soundtrack.

#### The Magnificent Seven (1960)

Dir: John Sturges

Composer: Elmer Bernstein

"Now we get to the question - should the audience notice the music? I really liked the film when I saw it without music. But it was on the slow side. That's alright in a highly personal story, but in an adventure, shoot-'em-up cowboy film, pace is very important. The function of the music was therefore to get on top of the film and to drive it along. Of course, in that kind of case, you do notice the music - and you're meant to. I'm often asked what I consider to be the most important attribute of the film composer. Assuming that the person can write music, which is not in fact always the case these days, what is most important is that he or she is a dramatist."



Main picture: the 'The Great Escape' for which Bernstein composed the classic soundtrack; below: 'The Magnificent Seven'

#### The Devil and Daniel Webster (1941)

Dir: William Dieterle

Composer: Bernard Herrmann

"This isn't one of Herrmann's best-known titles but it had a great effect on my decision to become a film music composer. It was one of the earliest scores in the history of film music that had a peculiarly American voice. Herrmann fell back on a lot of folk music. If you think about who was writing film music in the United States in the Forties, the names that spring to mind are Miklos Rozsa, Franz Waxman, Max Steiner, Dimitri Tiomkin - these are all people who came from middle Europe, with a middle-European, symphonic sensibility. Along comes Bernard with a plaintive, less orchestrated American folk song idiom - an American sensibility that was very different."

#### The Heiress (1949)

Dir: William Wyler

Composer: Aaron Copland

"This was Wyler's adaptation of the Henry



James novel, Washington Square. Aaron's was obviously very much an American voice. Unfortunately, his score, which was brilliant,

was operated on a bit surgically, and not to the advantage of the music. When I did *The Age Of Innocence* for Scorsese, I went the

other way - I went back to middle Europe. That score is unashamedly related to Brahms. These jump-up, up-market people in the States, well, what would they have been listening to in 1870? They'd have been listening to European music."

#### Sunset Boulevard (1950)

Dir: Billy Wilder

Composer: Franz Waxman;

and Spellbound (1945)

Dir: Alfred Hitchcock

Composer: Miklos Rozsa

"There's a tremendous sense of excitement about the *Sunset Boulevard* score. That was Waxman's thing. It's the kind of music that keeps you on the edge of the seat. He did the same in *Rebecca*. A Waxman score is very different from, say, a Miklos Rozsa score. Rozsa is comfortable and satisfying, but sometimes inventive when you least expect it. The risk he took in *Spellbound*, using the theremin (one of the earliest electronic instruments) was brave at that time. He takes your attention. You say, 'whooh!'

#### The Man With The Golden Arm (1956)

Dir: Otto Preminger

Composer: Elmer Bernstein

"The Man With The Golden Arm was the first film to use jazz as the main thrust of the entire score. Originally, I wanted to do the score as a concerto to camera for a small jazz group and a large symphony orchestra. As time went on, I decided a small jazz group wouldn't give me the power I needed. I went to speak to Preminger about it. He was a scary character. I thought that he was simply going to throw me out of the office when I told him that what I had in mind was to do the entire score as a jazz-based score. But what he said was something very uncharacteristic for him. He told me that that was what I had been hired for, and that that is what I should go away and do."

#### Titanic (1997)

Dir: James Cameron

Composer: James Horner

"There are a lot of my colleagues who, for some reason or another, are James Horner bashers. I'm not among them. He's a good composer and I think he has done some extraordinary things. I think that his score for *Field Of Dreams* is probably the best electronic score that has ever been written. But I didn't like *Titanic*. James's score wasn't really allowed to work in the film. Half of the time, you couldn't really hear it properly. It was drowned out. Luckily for him, the song survived, but that whole film feels very wrong-footed to me."

#### Kundun (1997)

Dir: Martin Scorsese

Composer: Philip Glass

"I was very taken with this score. It's interesting that I should be because I have a relationship with Scorsese and it was a film I had wanted to do myself. The basic effect of this kind of minimalism is mesmeric, and anything mesmeric begins to feel spiritual."

#### Twilight (1997)

Dir: Robert Benton

Composer: Elmer Bernstein

"The best film music can do something which is maybe implicit in the film but not totally explicit. *Twilight* was an example of where the music is amplifying something implicit in the film. There is obviously a sexual attraction between the two main characters, Susan Sarandon and Paul Newman. In the score, I try to imbue the entire sense of the film with a kind of sexuality. It's not in your face all the time. It takes the form of the chord structure I use, which is slithery, rather than straightforward. All the sounds tend to be below Middle C in that throaty, sexy area. To me, one of the sexiest sounds in the world is the low end of a flute."

#### The Magnificent Seven (1960)

Dir: John Sturges

Composer: Elmer Bernstein

"Now we get to the question - should the audience notice the music? I really liked the film when I saw it without music. But it was on the slow side. That's alright in a highly personal story, but in an adventure, shoot-'em-up cowboy film, pace is very important. The function of the music was therefore to get on top of the film and to drive it along. Of course, in that kind of case, you do notice the music - and you're meant to. I'm often asked what I consider to be the most important attribute of the film composer. Assuming that the person can write music, which is not in fact always the case these days, what is most important is that he or she is a dramatist."

## THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY ART: MICHELE DAVID



AN ARTIST who pours paint on to a laid-flat canvas, you might assume, is a creator of abstracts, much in the manner of Jackson Pollock.

Michele David is an adept paint pourer. But a second glance at her seemingly abstract, colourful swirls and elaborate textures reveals that they are all faithfully drawn from nature.

Everybody has had the experience of gazing at a leaf, a tree, a rock or a cloud, and discovering that its name dissolves into abstract form. Japanese rock gardens use this phenomenon, inviting contemplatives to experience fluctuations between abstraction and hard reality. David's

paintings have a comparable charm.

The 30-year-old Scottish artist, who lives in Shetland and whose current exhibition is at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh, has roamed the wildernesses of Australia and America, photographing the display of natural forms that takes place out of sight of man - the splashing and bubbling, growth, decay and oozing of sap.

Back in her studio, within sight of the sea, she lays the canvas flat and imitates nature - thin washes of green and blue oil paint splash and bleed into one another, creating the depths and shallows of the ocean, or the efflorescence of algae. Small

quantities of real sand or plaster coalesce on the canvas, their grains forming shoals and shores stretching into the distance.

Her close-ups of decaying seaweed or tree trunks, divested of scale, can appear momentarily as monumental, abstract forms, before darting back to their true identity. But, she says, "they are all completely figurative".

She says of her painting of a bloodwood tree trickling red sap in the Australian bush: "The trunk is so close up that at first you're not sure what it is. But the realism has not diminished - it has simply been abstracted from its context".

She used glue, overpainted, for the sap. "People came in and said 'What's that?' because it looked abstract. I felt I was painting something weird - and yet it was true to nature. I loved it."

Not all her paintings play such tricks. Her trees look like trees, however long you look at them.

She spent five years painting Shetland's rock pools. *Queensland Coast*, painted this year and shown left, is an estuary viewed from the air, that to some, could be a rock pool. The prickly vegetation on the land, made from stippled, overpainted plaster, could be either big trees or tiny plants. The bright green-blue

submerged sandbank on the left is real sand.

She painted the dark blue depths first, then the tide came in - a liquid blue-green wash overpainted with eddies from a drybrush after the canvas had dried and been stood upright on an easel. "There is a fine line," she says, "between preserving the initial spontaneity of a painting and working into it."

In her current show of paintings of America, *Yellowstone: Fireholes and Acid Springs*, geysers spout, and mud pots bubble with lethal, brightly-coloured sulphur. Ribbons of bacteria surge - white, yellow, orange, according to the temperature around the

boiling springs. "I haven't overdone the colours," she says: "that's what they are."

David, who graduated from Glasgow School of Art, won the Villiers David prize for travel abroad in 1996. She has held several residencies at schools of art. Her paintings, on show to 16 Dec at the Royal Scottish Academy (0131-225 6671), were produced as a result of winning this year's Alastair Solsoven Trust Art Scholarship: exhibition prices - from £850 for 20in by 30in paintings to £2,400 for 5ft by 5ft 6ins. Colour photographs, 18in by 12ins, £60. She is represented by the Berkeley Square Gallery (0171-493 7939).

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## More hit than myth

### CLASSICAL

THE CREATION  
STATIONERS' HALL  
LONDON

THOUGH HAYDN is often praised for his musical humour, it's not generally known that he also set cryptic crossword clues to music. Take, for example, the soprano aria "On mighty pens uplifting soars the eagle", from his oratorio *The Creation*, premiered two centuries ago this year. Pens is a three-letter synonym for wings. To get the connection, try pens, or quills, from old English, pine, from Latin penna, meaning feathers.

The text for *The Creation* is knotted with this kind of infelicity, which perhaps explains why Anne Hunter, wife of Haydn's friend, the famous English surgeon John Hunter, made her own version of these famous words. Whether the composer ever saw it, or approved, remains unclear. However, it came to light some years ago, and was first performed in 1993 by a choir and orchestra consisting largely

of medics. Hunter's arrangement is not without its 18th-century periphrases: "the scaly fry that lie in his green wave" is quite a mouthful. In general, though, there is nothing to lack in clarity that is any less opaque in the standard libretto.

The Stationers' Hall proved an excellent venue for a revival of her version, given as part of the St Ceciliae International Festival of Music, directed by Penelope Rapson. This was billed as the first performance on period instruments, and it was given by Fiori Musica, who just managed to squeeze their choir and orchestra into one end of the hall. Though the forces used were small, with

only three soloists, and brass and timpani high up in the gallery, there was plenty of his torical precedent for doing it this way. Some of the playing in the famous opening depiction of chaos sounded authentic in other ways, though tuning and ensemble improved as the evening progressed, and the joy of Haydn's tone-painting was especially marked in the clarity of the hall's acoustic.

The details of its standard text excepted, *The Creation* is a work of wonderfully artful simplicity. The score contains music that is mature Haydn at his finest, and the structure, though a straightforward telling of the myth, ends with a sense of profound satisfaction, not least because we hear his radiant close against the knowledge that things in the garden did not turn out well, despite the praise and glory.

Penelope Rapson gave an unforced reading of the work.

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

## mirror image

Jonathan Miller on Reflection



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# HEALTH

Reflexologists say they can alleviate symptoms of PMS, asthma and anxiety by massaging pressure points on the feet. There is no scientific evidence to support this complementary treatment, but its popularity grows. Professor Edzard Ernst continues his series

## Footloose and pain-free

**R**eflexology goes back to a form of treatment developed by the Indian tribes of North America. In recent years, it has become one of the most popular complementary therapies. About 6,000 therapists practise in the UK at present and this number is growing steadily.

Reflexologists describe their therapy as the "practice of working on reflexes in such a way as to produce a relaxation and response in the corresponding body regions. By applying controlled pressure to the reflex points and areas on the feet, the body is stimulated to achieve its own state of equilibrium and good health. Pressure on the reflexes not only affects the organ or region of the body but it also influences the relationship between the different functions, processes and parts."

The foot, ear, hand, back and other body locations are believed to represent "holographic reiterations of the anatomy of the body," or a "perfect microcosm or miniature map of the whole body," or a "scanner screen-recording bodily functions." Maps were drawn up where one particular area of the foot's sole is assumed to represent one particular internal organ or organ system. These maps are based on the assumption that 10 "energy zones" run longitudinally through the body. Each foot has five of these lines, and all body organs are believed to lie along one or more of these lines.

Reflexologists postulate that a malfunctioning organ or body system leads to deposits of uric acid or calcium crystals. These, in turn, impinge on the nerve endings on the feet or obstruct the lymph flow. Treatment aims at breaking down the deposits so that they can be reabsorbed and eliminated. Reflexologists also believe that treatment can improve blood flow and that reflex points are nerve receptors whose stimulation will induce "deep relaxation" or emit "impulses to all parts of the body." Other hypotheses involve the lymphatic system, suggesting that the body's waste products are removed through reflexology massage, and the general enhancement of the body's inherent balance. All of these theories are unsubstantiated. A scientific rationale for reflexology simply does not exist.

By searching for "blockages" or increased areas of sensitivity on the foot, reflexologists also diagnose diseases or organ malfunctions. A positive finding in the reflex zone of the kidney, for instance, would imply to a reflexologist that the patient suffers from kidney disease. As with most other complementary diagnostic techniques (Box 1), there is no evidence to support the validity of such diagnoses.

### What happens during a reflexology session?

■ The reflexologist would normally take a short case history of the patient; few will carry out an actual conventional physical examination. Patients are then asked to lie down and show their feet. Treatment usually consists of palpating and massaging the feet. Sometimes other parts of the body, such as the hands, are also treated. Reflexology can be mildly painful, but it is normally agreeable and also intensely relaxing.

Prices can vary between £30 and £40 for one 30-minute session. Six to 12 treatments per series are usually recommended. Thus, the total costs for one series of treatments can be up to £240. Since reflexologists usually treat chronic conditions that often require repeated attention, a total bill of something in the region of £1,000 per patient per year may not be exceptional.

### What is it for?

■ The list of "indications" given by enthusiasts is long (see Box 2) and there is a worrying lack of agreement between various authors on the subject. Some of the more surprising "indications" are appendicitis, high-blood pressure, cirrhosis of the liver, common cold, diabetes, hernia, infertility, jaundice, pneumonia, tumours and whiplash injuries. According to a fairly recent survey, the most frequently treated conditions are the following: back problems, tension/stress, migraine/ headaches, sinusitis, arthritis, neck/shoulder pains, digestive problems. Of these, tension/stress, back problems and migraine/headache were said to respond best. In most (if not all) cases, reflexology is advocated as an adjunctive and symptomatic treatment, and not purely as a cure in itself.

The above indications are not based on evidence from controlled clinical trials. In fact, only very few such studies have been published. The only conditions for which encouraging trial data exists are anxiety and pre-menstrual syndrome. In both cases, the studies have not been replicated by independent research groups, a precondition that is required before accepting results as reliable.

### CLINICAL TRIALS

CONDITION	RESULT
■ Anxiety	Positive
■ Headache	Negative
■ Asthma	Negative
■ Post-op treatment	Inconclusive
■ PMS	Positive

### COMPLEMENTARY TECHNIQUES

■ Applied kinesiology shown to be unreliable by at least one research group	■ Radionics - not scientifically proven and evidence is contradictory
■ Bioresonance - shown to be unreliable in the majority of tests	■ Reflexology - shown to be unreliable by two independent research groups
■ Iridology - shown to be unreliable by at least four research groups	■ Vega test - shown to be unreliable by most tests
■ Kirlian photography - not	

ill, while some diseased people will be pronounced healthy. In the most extreme cases, this may result in the cost of lives.

**In conclusion**  
Reflexology is popular, usually perceived as relaxing and, as a therapy, carries few risks. Unfortunately, there is as yet no truly convincing evidence that it is specifically effective for any medical conditions. The diagnosis of disease through reflexology is also likely to cause harm. This, unfortunately, applies to several diagnostic techniques that are used in complementary medicine.

*Association of Reflexologists, 19 Benson Road, Henfield BN5 9HY*

*For further reading, 'The Reflexology Handbook' by Norman L. The Bath Press, 1988*



Palpating and massaging the feet can be mildly painful, but it is normally agreeable and intensely relaxing

Bill Fleming

## Pain in the buttocks

**D**URING TWO pregnancies over the last four years I developed a painful form of acne over my buttocks. This has now happened again, though I'm not pregnant. It makes swimming in public impossible, and rather dents one's libido. My husband urges me to see my GP, but I couldn't bear the embarrassment. Is there anything I can do about it?

Pregnancy sometimes causes strange skin rashes and itches, but not usually painful acne. This type of rash could be caused by an infection, bacterial, viral or even fungal. Another possibility is a rare condition called dermatitis herpetiformis, which is related to coeliac disease. Coeliac disease is made worse by eating foods that contain gluten, such as wheat, and if you are absolutely insistent that you will not see a doctor about this, you could try cutting gluten out of your diet to see if

### A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

whether this helps - but it may take many months before there you see any effect.

A few other ideas are: try an anti-fungal cream such as Canesten which you can obtain from any chemist; use an anti-bacterial skin wash such as Betadine Skin Cleanser. But in the end, it may be better to suffer the embarrassment of showing the rash to a GP or dermatologist.

**Y**OU RECENTLY suggested "a diet that includes at least five portions of fresh fruit and vegetables a day". How big is a portion? Without a definition, how can I know if I am eating too little, or too much? A medium-sized apple or banana is a single portion. This usually weighs 125-150g. The same applies to other fruits or vegetables. Don't worry about having too much. Within reason, the more you eat, the better.

Whatever this trigger may be, and theories have ranged from insecticides to herpes-type viruses, the result is the loss from the brain of dopamine, a chemical involved in a range of tasks including movement control and coordination. The loss of dopamine can result in tremor, muscle rigidity, slowed motion, a shuffling gait, dizziness, speech problems, reduced body language and loss of facial expression. These symptoms get worse over time.

New research by the European Parkinson's Disease Association has found that it is the tremor, the symptom most difficult to control with drugs, that is a major everyday problem for eight out of 10 sufferers.

For many, the twitch or tremor is also the first symptom of the degenerative disease. This involuntary movement usually begins in the hands and increases in intensity with anxiety. Over time it can also start to affect the arms and legs.

Many other symptoms can be tackled by drugs, but most have side-effects. Levodopa, for instance, one of the most widely prescribed drugs, helps restore dopamine levels for a time, then begins to wear off and can result in the patient suffering sudden, violent movements.

One of the main problems with existing drugs is that although they prolong life, the side-effects can affect the quality. The issue of adverse effects from long-term use is heightened in cases where the patient is at the lower end of the age range for the disease. "When you give them dopamine it reverses the clock and can put them back to normal," says Professor Leslie Findley, a consultant neurologist who is vice-chairman of the Parkinson's Disease Society in the UK, and medical adviser to the National Tremor Foundation.

"There is usually a good response for four or five years, but then they start having problems."

"So in younger patients we are tending to delay treatment with drugs such as levodopa and to use reduced doses. There is a real need for doctors to consider new therapies that will prolong the about quality of life."

## It turns your world upside down

But new drugs bring increased hopes for younger Parkinson's sufferers. By Roger Dobson



Michael J. Fox was diagnosed with Parkinson's at 30, seven years ago

window of effective treatment for people with Parkinson's."

One new drug, Mirapexin, is coming on to the market this month, and clinical trials have shown that it significantly improves the tremor symptoms.

"Mirapexin seems to be well tolerated with few side effects, and may prove to be a significant pharmacological advance," says Professor Findley.

Surgery is also undergoing something of a renaissance. Traditionally it has been the tremor alone that has been removed, by creating a lesion in the right place inside the brain, but specialists are now looking at working on other areas of the brain for relieving symptoms such as slowness and loss of balance.

Many specialists now believe it unlikely that there will ever be a cure that will reverse the process and remove all the different symptoms. "A lot of us are thinking much more about preventive action. It may be that one day we will be able to pick up those that are genetically vulnerable and be able to take some kind of action to stop it from ever developing," adds Professor Findley.

For those who already have the disease, such as Michael J. Fox, the emphasis is on prolonging life and maintaining its quality, by drugs or surgery, or both. The New York-based actor, now 37, who has already undergone one session of surgery to try to control his tremor, says that the disease has turned his world upside down, and he recognises that maintaining quality of life will be increasingly important.

"It's made me stronger, a million times wiser and more compassionate," he says. "I've realised I'm vulnerable, and that no matter how many awards I'm given or how big my bank balance is, you can be messed with like this. The end of the story is, you die. So accepting all that, the issue then becomes one about quality of life."

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Bobbie Knighton has two healthy children, Charles, six and Georgina, four. Her third baby suffered from spina bifida, caused by folic acid deficiency during pregnancy *Keith Dobney*

## Why we need flour power

Adding folic acid to flour could reduce birth defects. So why hasn't it happened? By Annabel Ferriman

**B**obbie Knighton felt super-fit during her third pregnancy. She ate a good diet, gave up alcohol and conscientiously attended all her antenatal check-ups. Her blood test at 13 weeks was normal, and the baby was active.

So when she went for her routine ultrasound scan at 20 weeks she was in a positive mood. Her daughter Georgina, now four, was particularly excited at the prospect of having a little brother or sister.

During the scan, however, the radiographer fell silent and took an exceptionally long time, checking every measurement. She then told Bobbie and her husband that something was seriously wrong with the baby, and that she would have to fetch the consultant.

Within 15 minutes, the Knights, who live in Baldock, Hertfordshire, were given the news that their child - a girl - had severe spina bifida, a defect in which part of the spinal column fails to develop completely, leaving the spinal cord exposed. The baby also had a misshapen head, which suggested that she was suffering from hydrocephalus (water on the brain).

Mrs Knighton went into hospital the next day for a termination. "The labour lasted almost 24 hours and was much worse than my previous labours," she says, "because my body was not ready to deliver the baby. Mother Nature was telling me to hold on."

"The experience was horrific. Part of me died that day. We named

the baby Ellen, and we both held her. We had a service for her and planted a rose tree in her memory. "We have delayed having any more children because we were frightened of having another child out of grief."

One of the tragedies of this case is that it probably could have been prevented. Scientists discovered as long ago as 1991 - five years before Mrs Knighton's pregnancy - that if mothers increased their intake of folic acid (a vitamin occurring in liver, green leafy vegetables and certain other foods) around the time of conception their risk of having a baby affected by spina bifida could be reduced by two-thirds.

Yet today, more than seven years later, the spectre of spina bifida is still haunting many pregnancies. More than 1,000 women a year in the UK discover that they are carrying a baby affected by a neural tube defect (mainly spina bifida and hydrocephalus) and about 850 of them go through a traumatic and painful termination.

An obvious solution to the problem was put forward in the *British Medical Journal* in 1995 by Nicholas Wald, professor of environmental and preventive medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, who suggested that flour manufacturers should be required to fortify flour with folic acid to ensure that all women of child-bearing age consume a high enough dose to reduce the risk.

Flour is already fortified with calcium, iron, niacin and thiamine, so adding one more vitamin would not

be such a big step. The then-Conservative government, however, decided to opt for a less interventionist policy. It mounted a publicity campaign to persuade women to increase their intake of folic acid.

That campaign has now come to an end, and, despite having won an international prize from the World Health Organisation, it has not yet had the desired effect. It cost more than £2.3m and there is no evidence that it has significantly reduced the number of affected pregnancies.

That is a view with which many specialists concur. Dr Richard Smith, editor of the *BMJ*, recommended the same thing in his

who become pregnant accidentally," said Tony Britton, spokesman for the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (Asbah).

"There is enough known about the safety of folic acid for the Government to require millers to put folic acid into flour just as the Food and Drug Administration in the US has done since January."

That is a view with which many specialists concur. Dr Richard Smith, editor of the *BMJ*, recommended the same thing in his

dietary supplements instead. But in 1997 the incoming Labour government appointed the first-ever minister of public health, and things looked likely to change.

Professor Sir John Grimley Evans, who chairs the government's subgroup on folic acid, and is a member of the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Food (Coma), says there are two important reasons why the decision to fortify flour has been delayed.

"First, there is concern about the interaction between folic acid and pernicious anaemia, a condition caused by a deficiency of vitamin B12, which can lead to neural damage. If people who are developing pernicious anaemia take too much folic acid, it can mask the anaemia, but lead to neurological damage before its true cause - vitamin B12 deficiency - is discovered."

Professor Wald believes that this problem can be overcome by teaching doctors to diagnose pernicious anaemia with greater clinical precision, while other experts believe the proposed level of folic acid enrichment would not be enough to cause problems.

The Government's subgroup on folic acid is expected to clear up doubts in this area shortly.

Unfortunately, the issue has more recently been clouded by research into other effects of folic acid.

Scientists have discovered new evidence suggesting that if adults increase their intake of folic acid, they may reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease. The Government's experts on folic acid

are now wondering whether this matter should be clarified before making any recommendation on fortifying food.

"There has not been a controlled trial to show that giving folic acid reduces cardiovascular disease," commented Professor Sir John Grimley Evans.

"If flour were fortified with folic acid, it would be impossible to conduct such a trial in the UK, or to discover the ideal amount of folic acid to give," he explained, "because everyone would be consuming more in their diet."

Sir John admitted that a trial to clarify the effects of folic acid on cardiovascular disease could take 10-15 years to complete. "There are obviously some people to whom neural tube defects are the only things that matter," he pointed out. "But we have to take to heart all the implications of fortifying food."

While academics puzzle over the new dilemma of folic acid and cardiovascular disease, more than 150 mothers a year will continue to give birth to babies with spina bifida, and another 850 will go through the painful trauma of a late termination of a wanted baby.

Helen Brinton, MP for Peterborough, who has been campaigning on the issue, said: "It is really

unfortunate that the last government dragged its heels on this. How long will women have to wait?"

*Antenatal Results and Choices (formerly Support Around Termination for Foetal Abnormality): telephone helpline 0171-631 0255*

## Is it your relationship that needs help - or you?

OBVIOUSLY DIVORCE often causes depression but what about the other way around: could depression equally cause divorce? Certainly there is a simple correlation between the two. Rates of depression have risen tenfold since 1950 and divorce has quadrupled, but sorting out cause from effect is not easy.

Ever since the 1960s it has been widely supposed that divorcing couples were incompatible and that each would be happier if they found someone more suitable. The possibility that one or both partners were simply depressed and thus impossible to live with has rarely been considered. Yet there is abundant evidence that a pre-existing premarital disposition to depression destroys innumerable marriages.

Depressed partners are prone to be hostile, paranoid and aggressive with intimates, while often placid, compliant and pleasing to friends and colleagues. So it comes as no surprise that depressives are also more likely to divorce. As the leading American psychologist John Gottman asked over 100 newlywed couples to pick a perennial bone of contention and videotaped their ensuing discussion. He found that the way they dealt with the problem predicted whether they were still together four years later. In this view, successful marriage is a case of finding the right person and making sure that destructive patterns of problem solving do not develop.

That this perspective became so

researchers find that couples with a depressive member are more disharmonious. A study that followed 56 married depressives over a two-year period found they were nine times more likely to divorce than the general population. But which comes first, the marital disharmony or the depression?

There are two theories. The first, dominant one points to "marital incompatibility" as the cause. Troubled marriages are seen as the product of ineffective communication patterns resulting from personal incompatibility.

The American psychologist John Gottman asked over 100 newlywed couples to pick a perennial bone of contention and videotaped their ensuing discussion. He found that the way they dealt with the problem predicted whether they were still together four years later. In this view, successful marriage is a case of finding the right person and making sure that destructive patterns of problem solving do not develop.

In this view, there are people whose personalities would have put them at high risk of divorce whoever they had married. In order to test the theory, a study would ideally

OLIVER JAMES



**BRITAIN ON THE COUCH**

themselves if they were with the right partner may be no coincidence. Of course, unhappy marriages can cause previously stable and well-adjusted individuals to develop depression but this view has become so dominant that the alternative has been almost totally forgotten: that emotional problems predating the marriage in one or both of the partners could cause the marital problems.

In this view, there are people

have followed a large sample from childhood to late adulthood. Only then would it be clear how much any emotional problems preceded the marriage. No studies have gone as far back as that but seven have tested the personalities of couples shortly before they married and followed up what happened to them subsequently.

In all of these, premaritally depressed women were more likely to subsequently divorce than undepressed ones. One British study found that mild depression in girls at age 16 predicted subsequent increased risk of divorce. But the findings did not only apply to women.

Premaritally disordered men were also more at risk although their problems did not show up in the form of depression but as aggression. Lack of impulse control - short temper, ill-considered deeds and words - in husbands predicted subsequent disharmony and divorce compared with men without these traits before marriage.

The differences between men

and women - and the divorced men were more likely to have lacked impulse control.

The authors concluded: "The husband's impulsiveness and the aggressiveness of both spouses are potent predictors of negative marital outcomes... in marital relationships, depression acts to bring about distress, and the other traits of the husband help to determine whether the distress is brought to a head (in divorce) or suffered passively (in a stable but unsatisfactory marriage)."

But, interestingly, three-quarters of convicted violent men became depressed when prevented from lashing out by imprisonment, a far higher proportion than men imprisoned for nonviolent crimes. Since most violent men are impulsive and since violence is the male method of expressing depression, the high divorce rate of impulsive men may ultimately be a sign that they are also depressive.

An eighth study, the most rigorous of the lot, supports the theory. It followed 300 married couples from before they had married in 1940 to 1980. Those who divorced were significantly more likely to have had emotional problems before they married than those who stayed married. Divorcees of both sexes were more likely to have been premaritally depressed - men as

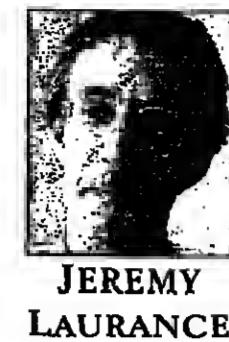
well as women - and the divorced men were more likely to have lacked impulse control.

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Of course there is such a thing as incompatibility. But more often than not, both partners will benefit from looking hard at their own pathology before blaming the relationship and splitting up only to repeat the same pattern later. Much more often than is currently supposed, it is the individual and not the relationship that needs treatment.

Oliver James's book 'Britain On The Couch - Why We're Unhappier Compared With 1950 Despite Being Richer', is now available in paperback (Arrow, £7.99).

## Patients need justice



**JEREMY LAURANCE**

WHAT HAS become of the health service ombudsman? The ultimate court of appeal for those dissatisfied with their treatment by the NHS - short of going to law - is itself generating an unprecedented volume of complaints.

Six consumer organisations have expressed their discontent with the office of Michael Buckley, the current holder of the post. The National Consumer Association and the Association for Improvements in Maternity Services all believe that the interests of patients are being overlooked in the drive for administrative efficiency.

The charge is that, at a time when complaints are rising to record levels, the number being investigated has fallen. In 1995-6 there were 229 investigations completed, in 1997-8 there were 238; but in 1997-8 the total dropped to 120. This fall has occurred just as the ombudsman's remit has been extended into two new areas - clinical complaints and GPs.

The findings show the NHS under extreme pressure. Hospitals are operating so close to the limit of their capacity that when a clutch of emergencies occur at once they can find themselves unable to cope. One man dangerously ill with Legionnaire's disease waited six hours to be transferred to the intensive care unit of a neighbouring hospital, because no anaesthetist was free to insert a tube into his lungs so that he could be ventilated on the journey. However, the anaesthetists escaped criticism because all three on duty were dealing with even sicker patients.

In a second case, a woman with liver cancer was denied an ultrasound test by her surgeon because he did not think anything could be done to save her. The ombudsman criticised the decision because it meant that the woman had been denied the chance of knowing the cause of her illness.

These cases should lead to improved NHS care - but only if they are investigated and publicised. The ombudsman's office says the apparent drop in its case load conceals extra work being done behind the scenes.

More complaints are being settled informally with, in some cases, a simple phone call to the hospital involved, an apology and a promise to do better next time.

The argument is that a full formal investigation is neither necessary nor appropriate in every case. Often it is clear what happened, but the complainant has never had it explained in language they can understand.

Settling complaints informally is a sensible use of people's time and speeds things up. Setting up a full investigation in every case would be "stupid and wasteful".

Sensible as this sounds, the ombudsman is appointed not only to ensure that justice is done, but to ensure that it is seen to be done. His responsibility does not end with satisfying the complainant; it includes ensuring that the lessons are learnt and errors are not repeated. Visibility is as important as impartiality.

An informal procedure can work only if steps are taken to ensure that those beyond the immediate case learn from the mistakes. The ombudsman must ensure that the work of his office is open and transparent, and his findings are widely circulated.

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## MEDIA

## Have we got (no) news for you

World In Action

**T**he furore surrounding ITV's successful campaign to ditch its flagship *News at Ten* has meant that the efforts of those who run Britain's most-watched commercial station to downgrade their commitment to network news has not exactly gone unnoticed. But their equally successful strategy to demote ITV of serious current affairs has provoked little uproar because it has been done more slowly and stealthily. The combined effect, however, is producing a significant shift in the country's television culture: as of next year, prime-time ITV becomes a no-go area for mainstream news and current affairs.

This change marks the end of ITV's pretensions still to be regarded as a public-service broadcaster and calls into question whether its lapdog regulator, the Independent Television Commission (ITC), has any further purpose. For viewers it means that those who wish to follow current affairs in more depth and with more rigour than superficial tabloid values allow will henceforth have to depend almost entirely on the BBC - a broadcasting monopoly which is hardly healthy for a vibrant democracy.

Those of us who have followed ITV's long and troubled relations with its ITV paymasters are not surprised by the demise of *News at Ten*. It is widely known that ITV tried to kill it in 1993 and was only stopped by some heavyweight disapproval from the then prime minister. What has been forgotten in an industry with short memories is that ITV never wanted *News at Ten* in the first place.

When *News at Ten* was launched in the late Sixties on the back of the successful move to half-hour prime-time newscasts by the American networks, it had to be forced on the ITV companies by the then regulator, the IBA. Even reluctant ITV bosses insisted on a short trial period of several weeks; they hoped to kill it off after that. It was only because the fledgling news programme proved to be such a ratings and critical success that they became reconciled to its survival (and the BBC quickly launched a half-hour news of its own).

But news has never been a priority for those who run ITV. The regional panjandrums of commercial TV were happy to dine out on the numerous industry awards to ITN and to bask in its international reputation. For a long period, under the editorship of David Nicholas and with Alastair Burnet as its main anchorman, ITN was widely regarded as more authoritative and innovative than anything BBC news had to offer.

But ITV kept it on a tight budget, never allowed it to develop its own

## THE NEIL REPORT



ANDREW NEIL

distinctive documentary strand despite the great brand name and, unlike the US networks, steadfastly refused to market and promote news as an integral and essential part of the schedule. Even as ITV bosses were bemoaning the recent slip in *News at Ten*'s ratings as TV channels have proliferated, they did nothing to revive them through on-air and print promotion of the programme and its presenters. Perhaps they feared that such marketing would be too successful.

The main regional ITV baronies in London, Birmingham and Manchester resisted ITN's wish to di-

*The death of 'News at Ten' comes at a time when there is no longer any regular serious current affairs on ITV*

versify into documentaries and current affairs because it would have been competition for their own network offerings. And, as long as Granada was making *World in Action* and Thames producing *This Week* - both broadcast at peak viewing times - viewers in search of serious current affairs were not necessarily cheated. But the death of *News at Ten* comes at a time when there is no longer any regular serious current affairs on ITV, at least not at a time when most of us want to watch.

*This Week*, which used to provide weekly commentary and analysis on mainstream politics, no longer exists. The various - and increasingly tabloid - offerings which replaced it have all bombed (and none had the serious purpose of *This Week*). *World in Action* has survived - and at peak time - but only at the cost of relentless dumbing down: its

hard-edged investigative journalism has given way to a tabloid agenda, with much emphasis on consumer concerns and stunts. Its current contribution to the devolution debate has been to ask actors to wear anti-Scottish T-shirts in Glasgow to test the reaction.

I had a huge row with *This Week* over its flawed "Death on the Rock" documentary, and the relentless left-wing bias of *World in Action* used to grate (though it once did a wonderful exposé of Gerry Adams' terrorist past). But nobody could deny they were quality programmes with a serious purpose. Nothing like them now exists anywhere on ITV's network schedules.

Indeed, ITV can no longer be bothered to provide live Budget coverage, it is increasingly reluctant to interrupt its regular entertainment shows with breaking news coverage and it has lost all interest in live coverage of important national events, unless they are surefire ratings winners, like the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. The network's sole contribution to serious discussion of mainstream politics, Jonathan Dimbleby, is buried in the Sunday lunchtime slot and, though professionally presented, lacks the impact or authority of its predecessors, *Weekend World* and Brian Walden (both of which were broadcast just before Sunday lunch rather than during it).

This is a pathetic state of affairs for a network that still claims it adheres to public-service obligations in order to protect its position as the nation's premier commercial channel. The excuse most commonly trotted out by those who control it is that the government has made TV so competitive, with new channels springing up all over the place, that it can no longer afford to broadcast current affairs programmes with limited appeal in prime time. This is self-serving nonsense.

The American commercial networks face far greater competition than ITV (over 70 per cent of US homes are multi-channel, compared with around 20 per cent in Britain) yet they manage to provide a more considerable diet of network news and current affairs while their local affiliates all provide substantial local news programming.

No major US network would fail to broadcast live the President's state of the union address or other important national events. All regularly interrupt their schedules with breaking news. They spend substantial sums producing their news programmes and their anchors. Sunday morning is wall-to-wall political discussion. And news magazine shows increasingly dominate prime-time ratings (four of them are among the 20 most-watched programmes in America).

This is all done in America without the cajoling of a regulator. Yet ITV, which remains far more costed from market forces than any US network, can manage none of this, despite making profits of over £400m last year. Clearly, the problem at ITV is not just the failure of regulation: its traditions are also being undermined by the priorities of those who control it.

They promise a weekly American-style news magazine at 10pm as a

sop to critics but, unlike the US networks, British television seems unable to popularise without trivialising. The suspicion remains that it has scrapped *News at Ten* to make way for more uplifting programmes like the recently broadcast *Vice: The Sex Trade*, which no supposedly vulgar mainstream US network would dream of showing.

ITV is able to get away with all this because the ITC has been nobbled by the ITV companies. The ITC

is a shadow of its former self, run by an unknown and undistinguished businessman with little experience of TV and populated by bureaucrats who do ITV's bidding. When no ITV bosses would appear live on BBC2's *Newsnight* recently (so much for public accountability) to defend the end of *News at Ten*, the ITC's director of programmes obligingly stepped in to put ITV's case.

In America it is known as "regulatory capture": those doing the

regulating end up in thrall to the powerful commercial interests they are supposed to be controlling. But now that the ITC has sold the pass on ITV's public-service obligations, it is difficult to divine any purpose in the further squandering of taxpayers' money on a lame-duck television regulator.

Andrew Neil is the editor-in-chief of *Sunday Business* and *The Scotsman*



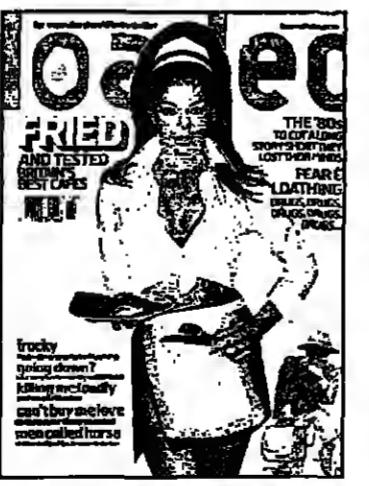
*'World in Action'* (top) has turned to a tabloid agenda, dealing with issues such as pet food, and Jonathan Dimbleby's Sunday current affairs' programme (above left) does not match the journalistic depth of *This Week* (above right)

World In Action

## The original lads' magazine is in need of reloading

## ANALYSIS

PAUL McCANN



'Loaded' - not selling enough

YOU HAVE to feel sorry for Derek Harbinson, who was the editor of *Loaded* until last week when he was replaced by one of the founders of the magazine.

There he was, quietly editing a magazine which, since his high-profile predecessor James Brown left last year, has increased sales by 20 per cent. A 20-per-cent sales increase in a year should be anybody's idea of success, and enough to safeguard your job, but it seems not. Harbinson put on a brave face last week and maintained that: "There are other things I want to do with my career and it's true to say the *Loaded* spirit to go out on a high."

But it is beyond doubt that the magazine's owner, IPC, and his replacement, former deputy editor and founder Tim Southwell, seem to see things slightly differently.

"I feel the magazine has been treading water for the last year-and-a-half," says Southwell. "It has been lacking urgency and lacking any sense of surprise. I want to put that back. I want to get back to the core editorial principles - which is that just about anything can happen in the pages of *Loaded*."

What has happened to *Loaded* in the last two years is, that despite revolutionising the men's magazine market, it has been overtaken and left looking stale. The copycats at Emap's *FHM* now sell 775,000 magazines a month, compared with *Loaded*'s 456,373. And *Loaded*'s original fantastic growth has slowed, even when compared with the poorest of the imitators. Even Dennis Publishing's *Maxim* put on 56 per cent growth last year. So rapidly growing is the men's mar-

ket that 20 per cent growth just does not cut it.

Southwell says that the magazine has been putting "nobodies" on its cover and has started to look increasingly like an also-ran. "We have been letting the readers down and I want to put the *Loaded* ethos back into every single page. I am under pressure to increase circulation, but I haven't been given any specific targets."

Southwell should be the man to do it, but it is a sign of how desperate IPC is for a change that they have brought him back after he had a serious falling out with the company. Southwell was with James Brown in Barcelona watching Led Zeppelin when the idea for *Loaded* was developed. That is to say it developed straight out of a night's drinking, watching football and chatting up women.

He became deputy editor before the launch in 1993, and by the time he left in November 1995, he was editing more and more of the magazine during Brown's increasing absences from the magazine.

"Tim has never had the credit for what he put into *Loaded*," says the editorial director of a rival magazine group. "He was there right at the beginning and there are awful lot more at the end."

According to his book on *Loaded* - *Getting Away With It* - Southwell was getting increasingly disenchanted with IPC's management of the magazine. He felt advertising

him the rights to the idea he had developed. He wrote his book about the magazine, which is less than flattering about IPC management.

"Well, they approached me," says Southwell, indicating that he and IPC have made up. "They gave me time to think about it - the more I thought about it, the more excited I got." Southwell, it seems, is the true *Loaded* believer and could not turn down the opportunity of rescuing his baby. "I just want to get the staff back to thinking for themselves - to give it more bite and more attitude. It was always driven by madcap ideas - a combination of the Double Decker and Carry On Publishing - and I just want it to have more extreme ideas."

Southwell is known to want to make the magazine more sophisticated - perhaps more like his work on *The Player*. This would be the direct opposite of what Derek Harbinson was doing, and might also be the direct opposite of what the rest of the market is doing.

The problem for Southwell is that when *Loaded* was at its editorial peak, nothing much was expected of it. IPC's management left it well alone and the editorial team could spend all day in the pub coming up with a feature as inspired as "The Crisp Olympics" - which was a kind of taste play-off between different salty snacks.

But since then, IPC has been bought out from its parent, Reed Elsevier, and *Loaded* is a very large money-maker for the company. Southwell might just find that "madcap" and "crucial revenue earner" are not phrases to trip happily from his finance director's tongue.

SEVERAL INTRIGUING issues arise out of Channel 4's *Hard News* special on *The Guardian*'s investigation into whether the Carlton documentary, *The Connection*, was in fact a fake (brief summary: the mule may or may not have been a mule, but the producer of *The Connection* was clearly a complete ass). *Hard News* broadly agrees with *The Guardian* that *The Connection* misled viewers, which is not what programme makers are supposed to do at all. So clearly there will be no welcome mat for them outside Channel 4's glass and chrome revolving door. Er, not exactly. The wonderfully benevolent head of news and current affairs, David Lloyd, says that he would not necessarily banish *The Connection* producer, Marc de Beaufort, from his threshold. "I'd like to think my door is never closed." Lloyd says. The programme's executive producer, Roger James, has already done rather better out of Lloyd and landed a job. James is filling a similar role on a new Channel 4 series about the EU called *Inside Europe*, to be made by the team responsible for the landmark *Town Hall*. "It's strictly observational," says a Channel 4 spokesperson. So that's alright then.

YOU MIGHT have seen a story in the newspapers yesterday about two female college friends in their early twenties who died of carbon monoxide poisoning from a faulty gas boiler at a Shropshire B&B. The headline used by a local press agency to alert the hungry national press on Sunday? "Dead and breakfast."

AND NOW over to Sue Lawley for the BBC's *Review of the Year*. It is just the sort of programme (in the increasing absence of access to anything live) that the corporation



## THE WORD ON THE STREET

two things: one, there's still life in the old dog; two, she can bring the kid along to next June's show at Wembley.

ITV'S RELATIVELY poor track record in comedy has prompted the network to seek help from the US - the producers of *The Cosby Show* and *Roseanne* are currently creating a sitcom set in the Seventies, presumably on the basis that that was when ITV last produced a decent sitcom. The transatlantic recruitment drive will not surprise anyone who saw *Minding the Baby*, but it mystifies Graham Linehan, co-creator of *Father Ted* and *Big Train*, who thinks that, what with *The Royle Family*, *Goodness Gracious Me* and *Alan Partridge* (all BBC shows), British comedy writing is going through something of a golden age at the moment.

"Bringing in American producers may work but it's an act of desperation when no desperation is called for," says Linehan. "I cannot see it getting much better, unless the *Day Today* team reform, or Vic and Bob get their fairies out again."

"BIGGEST EVER poll rejects joining Euro," announces the *Sunday Telegraph*, which then goes on to tell readers that public support for British entry into the single currency is "in steep decline". Rather like the paper's definition of current affairs. The poll referred to in the piece was carried out before last year's election. In fact, according to a report by Social and Community Planning Research (the body that conducted the original poll) published today, it is opposition to the single currency that is falling. Next week in the *Sunday Telegraph*: "Massive backing for Britain to send task force to the Falklands."

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It's g

RACE IN THE MEDIA

# In plain black and white

The picture on the right shows a typical Fleet Street scrum of snappers, hacks and camera crews. And barely a black face in sight. By Rhys Williams

DOES ANYONE know precisely how many journalists working in the national press are drawn from ethnic minorities? More to the point, does anyone in the national press actually care?

The answer to the first one is almost certainly "no". As for the second, well, judging by the complete lack of any systematic ethnic monitoring on any of our national titles (including this one), the current response runs something along the lines of "probably not", or at least "not enough".

Politicians ducking uncomfortable truths habitually head for the nearest statistic and hide. The newspaper industry seeking similar refuge will find precious little behind which to crouch. The National Union of Journalists estimates that around 1.8 per cent of its 28,000 members are from ethnic minorities, a figure based on a voluntary questionnaire enclosed with each membership application form.

According to the most recent research available, carried out six months ago by Beulah Ainsley, author of the book *Black Journalists White Media*, there are only 24 non-white staff journalists on the national press; that's 24 out of approximately 3,000. The union believes the figure is slightly higher, but puts it above no more than a "few dozen".

"The situation is very fluid," explains Ms Ainsley, who is also a former member of the NUJ's Black Members Council. "People come and go all the time, which makes it difficult to be precise, and of course there may be more writing and contributing freelance like myself. But they won't be getting the benefits of full-time work: holidays, sick pay, pensions."

Whichever figure you believe – and they are all contestable – the total lags some way behind the 6 per cent of the national population that blacks and Asians constitute.



Baz Bamigboye of the Daily Mail and C4's Zeinab Badawi

Newspaper editors do not need surveys to tell them that ethnic minorities are under-represented: they can look out across the office every morning and see it in the faces of their staff.

The press have for months been reporting the Stephen Lawrence inquiry and the under-representation of black people in the police force," says Ms Ainsley. "They fail to report that they employ even fewer black people than the police. I don't think there is any direct racism, and certainly no black journalists I spoke to

have said that.

"No editor says 'we're not going to employ black people'. It's just that they don't take it very seriously. The biggest problem is that it's not seen as a problem at all."

Does it matter? "Yes, because the media is the visible face of society," says Chris Myant, of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE). "It is a key way that people see role models and positive images. Positive images in the sense that if Trevor McDonald reads the news or the editor of a national newspaper is Asian, then it sends out the right messages about career possibilities. It also debunks the stereotype that black people are either thick or lazy."

"I also think it helps the media better understand issues of race in society. One reason the print media has had such difficulties in relation to race issues is race equality is not a part of their everyday life."

The CRE confirms what most suspect or probably know to be the case: in terms of equal opportunities, broadcasting has moved into the digital age while print is still mucking around with typewriters and carrier pigeons.

The NUJ believes there has been some progress, but it is simply that broadcasting has taken off at such a lick that the press is positively static by comparison. It probably takes no more than 20 seconds to rattle off a list of high-profile names from the broadcast media – Trevor McDonald, Martin Bashir, Samir Shah, Zeinab Badawi, George Alagiah, Rejeev Omaar, Trevor Phillips, Andi Peters, Moira Stuart.

Even for the industry-literate, it takes a few more minutes to come up with Kamal Ahmed, media editor of *The Guardian*, The Daily Telegraph's Mihir Bose, Baz Bamigboye of the *Daily Mail*, The Independent's columnist Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, Emma Lindsay, an Observer sports columnist, and

Ekow Eshun, editor of *Arena* magazine. Broadcasting is, admittedly, an easier industry for the commission to lobby; relatively few players account for a hefty chunk of the business. Broadcasting is also governed by certain social responsibility obligations: the BBC's charter and the Broadcasting Act both contain provisions that relate to equal opportunities.

On the other hand, print is an unregulated mess. It is not so much a function of intent, says the CRE, as the way papers have evolved: more an issue of an unsound structure than a suspect attitude. There is no formal ethnic monitoring (although News International may well have a system in place within a year and, almost without exception, no formal recruitment schemes beyond graduate entry).

"The fact that there are few black or Asian faces may raise the issue, but it is not evidence of discrimination," says Mr Myant. "There have been no industrial tribunal cases, for instance. It's just that the networks

through which people are recruited tend to disfavour black and Asians. "We have to, I think, be very concerned about the lack of any formalised, open recruitment procedures for national newspapers. You almost never see a post on a national advertised, unless it's something specialist they are having more difficulty filling, like

*Guardian* Online.

"We're not saying that the issue stands or falls, or whether employers advertise posts, but it has significant impact on people's awareness and perceptions of the opportunities available. We argue that the only way forward is open, measurable, accountable procedure based on objective criteria."

In other words no more of this arcane, word of mouth nonsense which only perpetuates the present imperfections.

"It's a cultural rather than racist point," says Mr Bose, who writes about sport and business for *The Daily Telegraph*. "When newspapers recruit, it's haphazard, therefore the

last two years, an Asian has been one of the two to be recruited.

Like the CRE, the NUJ believes it is time to act. But while they both share a common purpose the two have yet to formulate a joint approach. The union wants first to establish the precise levels of black and Asian staffing on the national press; it has briefed chapels to count and report back and then confront the sector with its inadequacies.

But it recognises that change, though positive, will be gradual and probably starts with training.

Through the George Viner Fund, the NUJ hands out six grants worth £1,000 each every year to black and Asian students who have secured places on journalism courses.

The CRE at least senses a shift in desire. "When we went to national newspapers six years ago," says Mr Myant, "we were looked on as politically correct imbeciles."

"The feeling now is that it needs a new approach, and that we would be more successful if we were to go back today."

## 'I'm quitting because of racism'

Editors of newspapers will never admit to a racist recruitment policy. So how is it so few journalists are black? By Donu Kogbara



alone in its approach to hiring non-white journalists. I have visited many newspaper offices and I know that black and Asian faces are depressingly rare. Black and Asian applicants are openly discriminated against on one tabloid. I have talked to a photographer told to exclude "darkies" from his pictures; I know of news desks that ask the colour of a rapist or a murder victim before deciding whether to run a story. Some papers are trying to modernise. But the idea of a British national newspaper following *Newsweek* by appointing a black editor is still risible, in spite of thousands of words printed on the evils of racism.

Diran Adegbayo, an award-winning novelist, told me he was so dis-

couraged by working for "ignorant" bosses on national newspapers that he eventually gave up and joined *The Voice*, the black paper. Now I am giving up too. I'm so sick of being ignored, pigeonholed and subtly insulted – and so hurt by receiving just occasional scraps from papers for whom I've done good work – that after 15 years I have begun to apply for jobs outside journalism. Yes, I'm aware that I'm not the most brilliant journalist on earth; I don't deserve a column, a staff job or vast amounts of freelance work just because I'm black. Yes, journalism is an overcrowded market; plenty of competent white hacks also have career difficulties. And no, I can't prove I've been a victim of bigotry.

But can it really be a coincidence that few non-white journalists get decent jobs or regular freelance slots?

Why are my white journalist friends almost always more successful than black ones with similar qualifications? Am I imagining it when I say that I consistently get less respect and fewer opportunities?

I used to write articles in which I said black Brits would do better if they spent less time moaning about racism and more time grafting. But today I'm embittered, and more radical. The trouble is, racism is often impossible to prove. Many white newspaper executives are utterly charming. They invite you to parties and say they are colour-blind, and concerned about ethnic minorities. Some are sincere.

But most are hypocrites and close racists who abuse (or fail constructively to use) the power they have. Because they run a vital information outlet it is difficult to criticise them publicly. But surely it is time to examine racism in the newspaper business. These smooth-talking members of the chattering classes must prove that they are as liberal as they claim.

The BBC takes equal opportunities seriously, says Bob Nelson

The BBC is one of the more successful media organisations at employing and retaining ethnic staff. At the Corporation we believe we are "nearly there". We strongly support equal opportunity practices for gender, religion and disability as well as race, and the BBC employs more ethnic minorities within its news operations proportionately than Channel 4 or the ITV companies. We have made great strides over recent years by increasing the proportion of black staff employed in senior positions.

The BBC is also a champion of the Leadership Challenge and is represented on the steering group for Race for Opportunity.

We believe that representing all sectors of the community in the United Kingdom is at the core of public service broadcasting. This applies to the representation of ethnic minorities on air, the accuracy and balance of news coverage, as well as the composition of the Corporation's staff. The BBC recognises that its

workforce should "reflect the nations, regions and communities it serves". The BBC is carrying this belief forward for the new millennium. One Statement of Promises to Viewers and Listeners for 1998/99 is "to focus on our obligation to represent all groups in society accurately, and to avoid reinforcing prejudice".

In 1990, the BBC set its first target, aiming to have 8 per cent of its overall workforce from ethnic minorities by the year 2000. Projections for the 2001 Census state that approximately 7.8 per cent of the total UK population will be ethnic minorities. BBC Regions also set targets at the same time, seeking to reflect the specific characteristics of the local communities they serve.

There are also training schemes, policies and positive action initiatives. One initiative has been the Asian and Afro-Caribbean Reporters Trust. It was created by the BBC in 1989 with the specific aim of increasing the

number of Afro-Caribbean and Asian journalists. Some of its first graduates are now reporting for the Six and the Nine O'Clock News. In 1996/97, the BBC spent £2.5m on diversity issues, including gender, age and disability as well as race.

The BBC is committed to developing its workforce

irrespective of their ethnic origin, but operates a number of schemes for ethnic staff, in addition to the general training available. The BBC operates a mentoring system for ethnic staff, which has the specific aim of encouraging Afro-Caribbean members of staff to develop into more senior roles. As part of its ongoing development of staff, managers are offered training in racial awareness. The BBC will also look again at its targets when the 2001 Census is published.

The writer is the BBC's Head of Organisation and Management Development

## Our fight for equality

# It's good to Talk Radio with a real pro in charge

AT TEN minutes to eight yesterday morning just over 3 million people were listening to Britain's three national speech-based radio stations Give or take the odd air-waved surfer and last-minute defector to Classic FM, the number of listeners per station based on the latest ratings were as follows: 1.8 million listening to Radio 4, Lord Sainsbury on the Today programme talking about the need for British industry to be more science-based; 971,000 tuned into Radio 3's breakfast show interview with James Appleby, British Yo-Yo champion. The remaining 365,000 (correction, 365,001 with me)

were glued, ears flapping, to the astonishing revelation on Talk Radio that the real love of Diana, Princess of Wales's life was neither Dodi nor James – Charles didn't come into it – but a handsome Harley Street heart surgeon called Hazmit Khan.

The revelation might not have been quite so astonishing had I read the *Sunday People* the previous day, but hearing it straight from the horse's mouth made it more authentic. Did Neil Wallace, editor of *The People*, have photographic evidence to back up his story that the Princess, wearing a wig, used to meet her lover in a Kensington chip shop, presenter Clare

Catford wanted to know. No, said Mr Wallace, but make no mistake, Khan was the love of Dodi's life. Dodi? Sorry – Diana; be meant to say Diana.

A good breakfast show is the secret of a successful radio station, Kelvin Mackenzie, the new owner of Talk Radio, told me yesterday. It's three weeks since Mackenzie's consortium Talko bought the station for £24.5m and regular listeners will tell you that things are looking up already, particularly the breakfast show. It's faster, punchier, funnier a bit like *The Sun* in its heyday, when MacKenzie edited it. "Look, we're not aiming to compete with BBC breakfast shows. How can

we? We haven't got their billions from licence fee revenues. But what we can do is entertain." Surely he's doing that already. In the breakfast show peak

period yesterday, in the half hour between 7.30am and 8am when Radio 4 was featuring Pinochet, European defence commitments, the RUC and Lord Sainsbury and Radio 5 offered social services, the millennium bug, stress in the workplace and Yo-Yos, Clare Catford and her co-presenter Bill Overton were begging listeners to call in with their thoughts on the following: 1. Prince Jackson (son of Michael) going to Stowe – were any of them at school with famous people? 2. Funny vegetables – did anyone else have a potato shaped like Jimmy Hill? 3. Paedophiles – were the social services riddled with them? 4. Richard Bacon, sacked

cocaine-sniffing former *Elize* Peter presenter, about to give his first exclusive interview to Talk Radio – what did listeners think? And, of course, 5. Diana, Queen of hearts, surgery, and bejewelled frequenters of chip shops – was she a victim?

MacKenzie said he was pleased with the response to the Bacon interview. Talk Radio was flooded with sympathetic callers berating the Beeb for sacking him. He was also pleased that I liked the breakfast show, but it wasn't quite right yet. A

successful station stands or falls by its breakfast show, a breakfast show does ditto by its presenter. Dan Imus in New York, he thought, was a great breakfast show presenter. He talked to everyone and, more important, everyone wanted to talk to him. If Clinton was in town he would call Imus on his show. Yes, of course it was important to have scoops, but things didn't work that way any more. The wheel has already been invented. It's personalities that count.

Talking of which, what does Anna Raeburn, Talk Radio's personality queen and last year's Souy Gold Award winner, think of her new boss? She hasn't been asked to do her show topless, by the way. "Thank God we've got a professional in charge at last," she said.

Should docuseries tell the truth or simply entertain us? By Jane Robins

# The lying game

**T**elevision documentary makers might be forgiven for thinking that the docuseries must soon fall into decline. Practically every subject seems to have been covered. Shops, ships, vets, doctors, nurses - all have been heavily docuseried already.

Yet Paul Hamann, the BBC's head of documentaries, recently revealed that he has managed to commission 12 new docuseries, which will make up nearly half of the corporation's total new documentary output. Clearly, broadcasters' appetite for docuseries remains as voracious as ever, and they are still generating high ratings.

There is, however, a problem with moving into the next stage of the genre's development. It seems that programmers have still not worked out what the journalistic rules are: they have not decided whether the docuseries must have the same respect for truth as is required of serious documentaries.

The question was discussed with animation and occasional animosity at a recent seminar on "truth in factual programmes", hosted by the BBC, but attracting luminaries from throughout the industry.

The participants fell into two camps, with the first arguing that the docuseries, unlike the serious documentary, is essentially entertainment, and can therefore be more relaxed about what it presents as "truth". Much of the debate focused on a single scene in the BBC's *Driving School* series. Programme-makers had asked its heroine, Maureen, to re-enact her habit of waking up at 4am to demand that her husband test her on the *Highway Code*.

The "entertainment" school argues that such re-enactment is fine. The logic behind the argument says the scene was typical of Maureen's real behaviour, and audiences are sophisticated enough to realise that a television camera crew would not have camped out in her bedroom night after night on the off-chance of her waking up early for one of her *Highway Code* sessions.



A scene from the BBC's popular docuseries *Driving School* raised serious ethical questions

This justification relies heavily on the assertion that audiences know that, to some degree, all of television is a trick. They recognise that vast amounts of raw material are edited into a "version of reality".

The second camp, the "purist" school, says that that once programme-makers start concocting or re-enacting a scene, they are in danger of misleading the audience. Viewers are entitled to believe that what is seen on the screen is real.

So how do audiences judge the "facts" presented in a docuseries? Dr Annette Hill, a media academic, is in the final stages of an research project commissioned by the British Film Institute. Five hundred people were asked to keep diaries over a five-year period, recording their views on reality programming which included the early precursors of the docuseries, such as *999* and *Children's Hospital*.

Although the research does not provide clear answers to the programme-makers' dilemma, it does reveal some relevant themes. Audiences, it seems, are not a homogeneous group that responds to a programme in a given way. So, with the Maureen-in-bed scene, it seems likely that while some viewers were aware of the camera crew, others did not think about it.

Although the research suggests that audiences are sophisticated in recognising the amount of editing that is involved in a programme, it also reveals that most viewers put a high level of trust in the programme-maker. They trust the BBC not to offend. And it is therefore quite possible that they would also trust the BBC not to play fast and loose with the truth.

Steve Hewlett, the new director of programmes at Carlton, and original commissioner of *Children's Hospital*, says that even if audiences recognise what is going on, concocted scenes are damaging to the whole of factual programming. Audience questioning of the reality of scenes in docuseries would inevitably spread into their attitude towards more serious document-

aries, he argues. The contract between producer and audience that factual programmes are factual would gradually be broken down.

Also, an industry acceptance of contrived scenes in docuseries would, over time, put serious documentary makers at a disadvantage. They would be put under pressure to produce more exciting scenes more readily, but it takes a much greater investment of time, research and money to produce the authentic "magic moment" than it does to invent one.

The BBC is in the process of updating its guidelines on such issues and currently seems inclined to take the Hewlett view, that tampering with the truth in anything but the margins of television is not acceptable. The Director General Sir John Birt, appears to be firmly in the "purist" school of factual programming. But the BBC is only one part of the broadcasting market; producers expect that the real test may come at ITV, where the pressure to improve ratings is unrelenting.

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This is a challenging and rewarding position in a rapidly expanding, progressive group. If you feel this is the challenge for you, write enclosing your CV to: Andrew Walley, Group Production Director, Wilmington Publishing Limited, Wilmington House, Church Hill, Wilmington, Dartford, Kent DA2 7EF.

### PROJECT MANAGER (Temporary Assignment)

The company, specialising in the oil industry, is currently expanding its activities in the Crimea (Ukraine) and is looking for a temporary project manager to assist the Head of Marketing.

Duties will include:

- Establishing relationships between the UK company and the Crimea
- Interpreting and translation of business documents
- Compilation of financial reports and marketing proposals

The following skills are essential:

- Degree in Marketing or Business Administration
- Minimum one year's marketing experience gained in Eastern Europe
- Fluency in Russian, Ukrainian and English
- Cultural and local knowledge of Ukraine and Crimea
- Good analytical and communication skills
- Computer literacy (Windows 95/Excel)

Please send your application (in English) to:

Box Number: L2903

The Independent

1 Canada Square

Canary Wharf

London E14 5DL

For information please ring  
0171 514 6569.

**BERNARD  
HODES  
ADVERTISING**

### P T C

PUBLISHING MANAGER (Production background) - Top National Institution Central London - £35-40,000 + Car Ref C1176

Prestigious institution seeks high calibre Publishing Production Manager or editor of graduate calibre. Ideally 10-15 years will focus on strategic issues. Exp of electronic publishing an advantage as our client seeks to promote this area of activity.

MERCHANDISING MANAGER (Production etc) - Top International Cosmetics Firm-West End/London - £35-38,000 + Car Ref C1173

To handle strategic issues regarding production of packaging / Vital-of-sale, in store stands etc. Ideally a graduate aged 30-38 with sound knowledge of design/packaging & with marketing/budgeting skills. Exp of FMCG an advantage.

2 x PRODUCTION/PROJECT MANAGERS 11 Reading 21 Slough < £28,000

£34,000 Ref C1149, C1146

Top Mkt carrier based project seeks 2 Senior Project Managers to be based on-site at key Pic clients. With the support of an assistant. You will liaise closely with client & factory so as to project manage jobs through from conception to completion.

For information on these and many more please contact:

Andrew Deppey

Tel: 0181 949 2958 Fax: 0181 949 3176

Royal Hill, Cinnabar Hill Road

Kingsway, London NW1 7DU

Resumes Considered

### THE LONDON INSTITUTE

London College of Printing

The college provides a wide range of postgraduate opportunities, full and part-time, in its specialist areas:  
Starting in January 1999

- MA Documentary Research
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- MA Type/Graphic Studies
- MA Enterprise and Management for the Creative Arts
- MA Publishing
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Postgraduate Diplomas include:

- Retail Management
- Marketing
- Printing and Publishing Studies

For information please ring  
0171 514 6569.

### Creative Services Controller

Working with one of the UK's leading recruitment advertising agencies you will direct, control and manage the production of creative work, from briefing to the delivery of completed artwork to publication. Full responsibility for traffic control, art buying and administration of allocated client services accounts is also part of your remit.

You will be required to liaise with the Creative Group and Account Management, providing updates as to the status of all current projects and be responsible for purchasing art and peripheral project products where necessary. The need to produce in-depth weekly creative progress reports and work schedules for the Creative Group and update new briefing reports daily means a thorough knowledge of FileMaker Pro is essential. At least 2 years' appropriate experience and a relevant business degree are a must.

To apply, please send your CV to: Adrian Green, Bernard Hodges Advertising, Pegasus House, 37-43 Sackville Street, London W1X 1DB. Applications close: 16/12/98.

**BERNARD  
HODES  
ADVERTISING**

### A sales career in radio

Due to phenomenal success our client Chrysalis Radio, is seeking to expand its London advertising sales team by recruiting a number of graduate trainees.

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These positions offer a good basic salary, high bonus potential, recognised training and significant development opportunities in a fast growing and exciting industry. If you are a strong communicator, graduate calibre with IT literacy and good basic numeracy, send your CV to John Reilly, Radio Recruitment, 6 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6BU. Fax: 0171 930 1011. E-mail: john@radio-recruitment.co.uk.

**Chrysalis Radio**

### PRODUCTION DESIGN MANAGER

London based magazine requires a person experienced in print media production. Technical knowledge of Macintosh computer plus Photoshop, QuarkXPress and Illustrator for advert and page layout are necessary.

If you are degree qualified with design training and 3 years experience in print media production, please forward C.V. (before 1st Dec '98) to:

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### ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE

with a background in advertising sales in magazine publishing.

Please contact the Publisher, Nick Carr, 0115 958 3001. E-mail: nick@npuk.co.uk

# Bad BBC news from north of the border

LAST WEEK, the Scottish Daily Record turned its front page into a wild-west "Wanted" poster. It demanded the heads of the "BBC biter" guilty of "the cold-blooded murder of Scotland's news programme". Underneath were mug-shots of Will Wyatt, head of broadcasting and Tony Hall, director of news and current affairs. When the corporation's recent strategy review called for BBC news to be more "accessible" to popular opinion, I don't think this is quite what they had in mind.

It was the most lurid episode so far in the extraordinary controversy raging in Scotland over the Six O'Clock News. In rejecting a Scottish-generated bulletin, the BBC succeeded in uniting against itself the entire Scottish press, Scottish opposition parties, the Broadcasting Council for Scotland, its own employees and just about every other voice of Scottish opinion.

The most recent poll suggests 51 per cent of Scots support the Scottish six, with 23 per cent opposed. The tabloid shooting war began 10 days ago when the BBC board of governors blocked plans to replace the existing London-based six o'clock news with one presented and edited in Scotland. BBC Scotland had mooted the idea of a "Scottish Six" as a response to the changed political situation in a devolved Scotland.

But BBC governors said this risked "running ahead" of constitutional events, and that they were "minded" to oppose it. The BBC's Scottish "watchdog", the Broadcasting Council for Scotland, was furious. Professor Lindsay Paterson, a prominent member of the BCS, resigned, declaring that the corporation was treating Scotland with contempt. There were claims that the BBC had been "bounced" by lobbying from Cabinet Ministers who feared a "platform for nationalism".

The BBC seems to believe that it is possible to present Scottish-only stories in the existing UK national news. But I fear this is naive. Take a current example: in Scotland there is a row between Scottish Office ministers and the

teachers' unions about the implementation of "Higher Still", a new examination system. Is it really worth trying to explain this complex issue to millions of bemused English viewers who will not be affected? Similarly, Scottish viewers may not be hugely interested in the controversy over the future of grammar schools, abolished in Scotland 30 years ago.

In March 1998, out of 280 news stories broadcast on UK bulletins, only three were Scottish - yet there are two Scottish party conferences in that month.

The sensible solution would be to "devolve" one major news bulletin to Scotland so that Scottish stories can be assigned their due weight. The "Scottish Six" would still have access to the BBC's correspondents. It would merely give Scottish stories the prominence they deserve in Scotland.

The Corporation is only fuelling paranoia about London control freaks trying to starve the parliament of the oxygen of publicity. But it's not too late for the BBC to avoid a collision. Instead of making its decision irrevocable on 10 December, the BBC could launch a proper public consultation. There is a compelling case for a formal inquiry into how broadcasting should adapt to the new constitutional arrangements in the UK.

Diversity is nothing to be afraid of; it is the spirit of the age. The United Kingdom is now a multi-national state and needs a broadcasting service to match. Let nation speak peace unto nation - at least at six o'clock.

Iain Macwhirter is one of eleven BBC presenters who signed an open letter calling for the BBC board of governors to reconsider their opposition to a Scottish edited and presented six o'clock television news bulletin



IAIN  
MACWHIRTER

In fact, the platform for nationalism has been constructed by the BBC itself. It has handed the SNP its best propaganda gift since Sean Connery was denied a knighthood last year. The nationalists have renewed their attack on the "English

Broadcasting Corporation" - this time even anti-nationalist papers like the Record are agreeing with terrible suspicions of "metropolitan interference".

Yet this is not, essentially, a political issue at all, but a matter of practical journalism and editorial coherence. In six months time, a Scottish parliament will be sitting in Edinburgh with legislative responsibility for a whole range of domestic policy: education, health, local government, sport, crime, the arts etc. This will present the London-based news editors with an insoluble dilemma: do they ignore the new constitutional reality and continue to transmit English stories about these subjects to Scotland, where they no longer apply; or do they try to integrate into the UK bulletins Scottish stories which are not relevant south of the border.

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£12,500 Base+Commission  
OTE £40-£100k

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**ILFORD**  
DDEON (08705 050007) ☎ Gants  
Hill Antz 12.55pm, 2.40pm,  
4.30pm, 6.20pm Bladz 12.30pm,  
3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm The Ex-  
orcist (25th Anniversary Re-  
lease) 8.15pm If Only 1.20pm,  
3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm Out of  
Sight 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm,  
8.20pm Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm,  
5.50pm, 8.30pm

**KILBURN**  
TRICYCLE THEATRE  
(0171-328 1000) My Name Is Joe  
4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

**KINGSTON**  
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409)  
BR/ Kingston Antz 2pm, 4.15pm,  
6.30pm, 8.45pm Out of Sight  
2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.05pm Ronin  
2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

**MUSWELL HILL**  
ODEON (08705 050007) ☎ High-  
gate Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm Bladz  
5.45pm, 8.15pm Mulan 8.15pm  
2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm Ronin  
3.05pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm

**PECKHAM**  
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR/  
Peckham Rye Antz 12.20pm, 4pm,  
5.50pm, 7.40pm Elizabeth 3.50pm,  
6.30pm, 9pm Mulan 12.10pm The  
Negotiator 3.25pm, 6.20pm,  
9.15pm out of Sight 3.40pm,  
6.25pm, 9pm A Perfect Murder  
4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm Ronin  
4.05pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm Snake  
Eyes 9.30pm

**PURLEY**  
ABC (0870-9020407) BR/ Purley  
Antz 6.15pm, 8.25pm out of Sight  
5.10pm Ronin 5.30pm, 8.20pm

**PUTNEY**  
ABC (0870 9020401) ☎ Purley  
Bridge, BR/ Purley, Antz 2.15pm,  
4.15pm, 6.15pm Elizabeth 8.15pm,  
The Negotiator 2.15pm, 5.15pm,  
8.15pm out of Sight 2.15pm,  
5.15pm, 8.15pm

**RICHMOND**  
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/  
Richmond The Negotiator  
2.15pm, 4.15pm, 8.40pm Out of  
Sight 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm,  
9pm Ronin 12.40pm, 3.50pm,  
6.30pm, 9.10pm

**DEON STUDIOS (08705 050007)**  
BR/ ☎ Richmond Antz 1.10pm,  
3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm  
Bladz 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm,  
9.10pm Elizabeth 3.40pm, 9pm  
Rounders 1.10pm, 6.10pm Stums  
Of Beverly Hills 2.10pm, 4.30pm,  
7pm, 9.30pm

**ROMFORD**  
ABC (0870-9020419) BR/  
Romford Antz 5.55pm Bladz 8.25pm  
Out of Sight 2.30pm, 5.30pm,  
8.15pm Ronin 2.20pm The Wisdom  
of Crocodiles 2.05pm, 4.15pm,  
6.25pm, 8.40pm

**ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705  
050007)** BR/ Romford Antz  
12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm  
Bladz 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6pm,  
8.35pm The Exorcist (25th  
Anniversary Release) 3.15pm,  
8.25pm If Only 1.30pm, 4pm,  
6.20pm, 8.40pm Les Misérables  
8.05pm The Negotiator 1.45pm,  
5.15pm, 8.15pm Out of Sight  
12.15pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm  
Ronin 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm,  
8.30pm Rounders 12.45pm,  
5.50pm Small Soldiers 12.30pm,  
3pm, 5.50pm There's Something  
About Mary 8.20pm

**SIDCUP**  
ABC (0541-555131) BR/ Sidcup  
Antz 6pm Out of Sight 5.40pm,  
8.20pm Ronin 8.15pm

**STAPLES CORNER**  
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR/ Crick-  
lewood Antz 2.30pm, 4.40pm,  
6.45pm, 8pm Bladz 1.20pm, 4pm,  
9.20pm The Exorcist (25th  
Anniversary Release) 9pm The  
Negotiator 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.45pm  
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 4.30pm,  
7.45pm If Only 1.10pm, 3.30pm,  
6pm, 8.30pm The Negotiator 1.40pm,  
5.10pm, 8.10pm Ronin 12.30pm,  
3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

**STREATHAM**  
ABC (0870-9020415) BR/  
Streatham Hill Antz 2.15pm,  
4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm Out of  
Sight 2.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm The  
Wisdom of Crocodiles 2.10pm,  
4.25pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm

**ODEON (08705 050007)**  
BR/ Streatham Hill/Brixton/Clapham  
Common 12.20pm, 2.30pm,  
5.40pm, 8.20pm The Exorcist  
(25th Anniversary Release)  
12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm If  
Only 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm,  
8.30pm The Negotiator 1.40pm,  
5.10pm, 8.10pm Ronin 12.30pm,  
3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

**STRATFORD**  
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE  
HOUSE (0181-555 3361) BR/  
Stratford East Antz 1pm, 2.50pm,  
7pm Bladz 3pm, 6.35pm The Ne-  
gotiator 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm  
Out of Sight 1.45pm, 6.15pm,  
8.45pm The Wisdom Of Crocodiles  
4.20pm, 9pm

**SURREY QUAYS**  
UCI (0890-888990) ☎ Surrey  
Quays Antz 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.30pm  
Bladz 2.20pm, 6.20pm, 8pm Bladz  
6.6 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9.15pm  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary  
Release) 8.45pm Hope Floats  
5.50pm Les Misérables 6.35pm  
Mulan 2pm, 4.15pm The Negotiator  
3.40pm, 4.55pm, 9.45pm Out  
of Sight 4.05pm, 7pm, 9.55pm The  
Player's Club 10.05pm Ronin  
3.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm Rounders  
9.20pm Small Soldiers 3pm The  
Wisdom of Crocodiles 2.15pm,  
4.45pm, 7.20pm, 10.1pm

**SUTTON**  
UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR/  
Sutton/E Morden Antz 1pm, 3.15pm,  
5.30pm Bladz 4pm, 7pm, 9.45pm  
Elizabeth 8.45pm The Land Girls  
3pm The Last Days of Disco  
5.30pm Les Misérables 3.45pm The  
Negotiator 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm  
Out of Sight 1.45pm, 6.15pm,  
8.45pm The Wisdom Of Crocodiles  
4.20pm, 9pm

**UXBRIDGE**  
DDEON (08705 050007) ☎  
Uxbridge Antz 1.45pm, 3.55pm Out  
of Sight 1.40pm, 3.35pm, 8.20pm  
Ronin 5.45pm, 8.25pm

**WALSHAM**  
ABC (0870-9020426) ☎ Waltham-  
stow Central Antz 1.40pm, 3.40pm  
Bladz 8.15pm Out of Sight  
2.05pm, 4.50pm, 8.10pm Ronin  
5.30pm The Wisdom of Crocodiles  
1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

**WALTON ON THAMES**  
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-  
252825) BR/ Walton on Thames  
Antz 3.40pm The Negotiator  
2.35pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm Out  
of Sight 6pm, 8.30pm

**WILLESDEN**  
WILLESDEN (0181-830 0822)  
Willesden Green Rounders 4pm,  
6.30pm, 9pm

**WIMBLEDON**  
DOEDON (08705 050007)  
88/9/ Wimbledon ☎ South Wil-  
bledon Antz 1.30pm, 3.15pm, 5pm,  
6.45pm Bladz 2.30pm, 5.20pm,  
8.20pm If Only 1.40pm, 4pm,  
6.20pm, 8.40pm Out of Sight  
1.25pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm  
Ronin 1.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm  
Willesden Rounders 8.30pm

**WOODFORD**  
ABC (0181-989 3463) ☎ South  
Woodford Antz 2.15pm, 5.30pm,  
Bladz 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm  
Out of Sight 2.30pm, 5.40pm,  
8.10pm Ronins 8.20pm

**WOOLWICH**  
CDRNET (0181-854 5043) BR/  
Woolwich Arsenal Antz 4pm,  
Bladz 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm  
Ronin 8.25pm

## CINEMA REPERTORY

**LONDON**  
CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place  
SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) La  
Baie des Anges (15) 7.30pm

**ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE**  
SW7 (0171-838 2146) The  
Shakespeare Festival Lecture  
in The Carry On Films First Tuesday  
Lecture (NC) 7.30pm The Philadelphia  
Story (U) 2.30pm, 6.20pm The  
Woman in White Parts 1-3: Tele-  
vision (NC) 7.30pm UKNY: UKC  
Shorts: International Videos (NC)  
8.30pm The Mosquito Coast (NC)  
8.40pm

**PRINCE CHARLES** Leicester Place  
WC2 (0171-837 8181) The Horse  
Whisper (PG) 2pm (F) 5pm

**RIVERSIDE STUDIOS** Crisp Road  
W6 (0171-420 0100) Padre  
Padrone (18) Tue 8.30pm, 9pm  
The Night of San Lorenzo 8.45pm

**WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE**  
High Street, Brentford (0181-566  
1176) Character (15) 4.45pm  
Buffalo 66 (15) 7pm My Name Is  
Joe (15) 9pm

**BRIGHTON**  
BRIGHTON CINEMATHEQUE  
(01273-739970) Free Radicals:  
The Films of McClaren and Lye  
(NC) 8pm

**DUKE OF YORK'S** (01273-602503)  
Dr Strangelove (PG) 2pm La Vie  
Revue des Anges (18) 4.15pm, 9pm  
Funny Games (18) 6.45pm

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WC2 (0171-837 8181) The Horse  
Whisper (PG) 2pm (F) 5pm

**RIVERSIDE STUDIOS** Crisp Road  
W6 (0171-420 0

# TUESDAY RADIO

**RADIO 1**  
(97.3-99.8MHz FM)  
6.30 Zoo Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo.  
12.00 Kevin Greening 2.00 Mark  
Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles.  
5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave  
Pearce 8.00 Steve Lamacq - the  
Evening Session. 10.00 Digital  
Update 10.30 John Peel 12.00  
The Brezzablock 2.00 Clive War-  
ren 4.00 6.30 Scott Mills.

**RADIO 2**  
(88.9-92.8MHz FM)  
6.00 Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake  
Up to *Wogan* 9.30 Ken Bruce.  
12.00 John Inverdale 2.00 Ed  
Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker.  
7.00 Evelyn Glennie's Classics.  
8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 Some  
Like It Wilder. See *Pick of the Day*.  
10.00 Cole Porter: Night and Day.  
10.30 Richard Allinson 12.00  
Lynn Parsons 3.00 - 4.00 Alex  
Lester.

**RADIO 3**  
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)  
6.00 On Air.  
9.00 Masterworks.  
10.30 Artist of the Week.  
11.00 Sound Stories.  
12.00 Composer of the Week:  
Mozart.

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-  
cert (R) 2.00 The BBC Orchestras.  
4.00 Voices.  
4.45 Music Machine.  
5.00 In Tune.

7.45 Performances on 3. Live from  
the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, con-  
tinuing a season of chamber  
recitals.

8.25 The House of Fear. Four in-  
terviews programmes of readings  
from the surrealists works of Leon-  
ora Carrington. In these small and  
concentrated portions, the oddest  
elements from metaphysics, fantasy,  
daily routine and material life are  
shimmered together and mis-  
chievously served up. 1: 'The  
House of Fear', Reader Eleanor  
Bron. 2: 'The Oval Lady', Reader  
Kate Beckinsale.

8.45 Concert: part 2  
Tchaikovsky: *Souvenir de Flo-  
rence*.

9.45 Postscript. Five monologues  
about women. 2: 'Avril'. Played by  
Frances Barber. An overplayed li-  
brarian hopes her life will be trans-  
formed by a kickboxer from  
Dudley.

## PICK OF THE DAY

WHILE BILLY WILDER was visiting Europe shortly after the Second World War, his wife asked him to buy a bidet. He cabled her: "Unable obtain bidet. Suggest handstand in shower." That is a neat example of the way Wilder mixed European sophistication with Hollywood vulgarity, and a distinct tinge of misanthropy. *Some Like It Wilder* (19pm R2) looks back at his career which

included such classics as *Double Indemnity*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *Some Like It Hot*.

Marina Warner scrutinises the relationship between people and ewine in *These Little Piggies* (8pm R4). The humble porcer is forced to carry a hefty symbolic burden all the way from Homer through to the *Three Little Pigs*.

ROBERT HANKS



9.50 BBC Philharmonic. Conduc-  
tor Yan Pascal Tortelier, Edward  
Burrows (trble). *Duitelus: The  
Shadows of Time*. Hindemith:  
Symphony in E flat.

10.45 Night Waves. Richard Coles  
reports from Edinburgh on the  
opening of the new Museum of  
Scotland. The museum portrays  
Scottish history from prehistoric  
times - when the earliest peoples  
arrived in Scotland in around

8000BC - to the present day. The  
need for a museum devoted exclu-  
sively to telling the story of Scot-  
land was first recognised in the  
50s. Since then, ideas about the  
nature of museums and their place  
in national cultures have under-  
gone huge changes, and the new  
building opens as Scotland ap-  
proaches devolution. Richard  
Coles and guests discuss the  
place the museum may have in re-  
flecting and defining the changing  
nature of Scotland.

11.30 Jazz Notes.

12.00 Composer of the Week:  
Josquin (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

**RADIO 4** [92.4-94.6MHz FM]

6.00 Today.

9.00 NEWS: The Choice.

9.30 First Nights.

9.45 Serial: *Barrow Boys*.

10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.

11.00 NEWS: Nature: the Big  
Sleep.

11.30 Wonderland Girls.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Full Orchestra.

2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

2.15 Afternoon Play: *Motor Flight* (R)

3.00 NEWS: The Exchange: 0171  
580 4444.

3.30 Songlines. (R)

3.45 The Voice of the Little Man.

4.00 NEWS: A Good Read.

4.30 Shop Talk.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 Radio Shuttleworth.

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.35 Front Row. Mark Lawson

chairs the nightly arts programme.

7.45 Still Waters. By Ann Marie Di

Mambro and Cally Phillips. Katie's

birthday looms and Charlie has a

proposal. Meanwhile, an encounter

with the mysterious Viska has a

profound effect on Douglas, and

Frankie Callaghan has big plans

for Joanna. With Ann Scott-Jones,

Emma Currie and Liam Brennan,

Director David Jackson Young

(Part 17).

8.00 NEWS: These Little Piggies.

As pig's heart transplants into hu-  
mans become increasingly likely

and concerns about meat-eating

grow, Marina Warner traces a cul-  
tural history of the relationships

between humans and pigs. She

talks with chefs and surgeons,

agriculturalists, anthropologists

and vegetarians and visits the

Tamworth Two in their thatched

sty. See *Pick of the Day*.

11.30 Talking Pictures.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: A Man in

Full.

12.45 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

6.40 In Touch. Peter White with

news for visually impaired people.

9.00 NEWS: Case Notes. On

World AIDS Day. Graham Easton

asks what a decade of campaigning and research has done to help people living with HIV and AIDS.

9.30 The Choice. Michael Buerk

talks to individuals who have made

life-changing choices, taking them

through the whole process, from

the initial dilemma to living with the

consequences.

10.00 The World Tonight.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another

World. In Pat Barker's new novel,

a fractious family and a dying soldier

reveal the past's power to haunt

and distort the present. Abridged

by Doreen Estall, read by Robert

Glenister (7/10).

11.00 The New Show. Comic duo

Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis pre-

sent the sketch and stand-up

show with the regular team of Si-  
mon Murray, Jane Bussmann,

David Quantick, Nick Romero, Dan

Freedman and Emma Clarke.

11.30 Talking Pictures.

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5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

6.40 In Touch. Peter White with

Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57  
Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00  
Today in Parliament. 2.30 - 8.35  
Test Match Special.

**RADIO 5 LIVE**

(693, 909kHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

8.30 Test Match Special.

9.30 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ruscoe and Co.

4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 The Tuesday Match. Russell

Fuller introduces coverage of all

the night's football, including action

from the Worthington Cup fifth

round.

10.00 Late Night Live. The day's

big stories with Nick Robinson. In-

cluding 10.30 a full sports round-

up. 11.00 News and Finance. And

between 11.30 and 1.00 a sharp and

spirited late-night topical dis-

cussion.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

**CLASSIC FM** [1000-101.9MHz FM]

6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kel-

ly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concer-

to. 3.00 Jamie Crichton. 6.30

Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics

at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert.

11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto.

3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

**VIRGIN RADIO** [125, 197-220kHz MW 105.6MHz FM]

6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Classic

Countdown with Russ Williams.

1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet

Scott / AM from 6.45 Janet Lee

Grace. 7.30 Janet Lee Grace.

